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- **National Certificate in Carpentry – Qualification Review**

The BCITO is committed to being an organisation which is a leader in the building and construction industry and maintains a reputation as being a world class standard setting body.

In September and October 2006, the BCITO held fifteen consultation forums around the country to give building and construction industry stakeholders the opportunity to step back and take a good look at the National Certificate in Carpentry – prior to the formal review happening in 2007.

Some of the desired outcomes of the project were to ensure that the BCITO fulfils our leadership role in the industry as the standard setting body, to maintain the delivery of a current carpentry qualification that meets the need of our industry, and that we continue to improve the capabilities and up skill the workforce in the building and construction industry.

The BCITO widely advertised the forums through newsletters and publications, the internet and word of mouth – asking interested parties to register their interest in participating in the forums.

A wide cross section of industry stakeholders attended the forums throughout the country including;

- Past and present BCITO carpentry apprentices
- Past and present employers of carpenters
- Assessors
- Providers of carpentry qualifications, including polytechnics and PTEs
- Representatives from trade and professional organisations including Certified Builders, NZIOB and Registered Master Builders
- Regulatory agencies and standard setters including Department of Building and Housing, Standard NZ and BRANZ
- BCITO staff who work with carpentry apprentices

The BCITO commissioned specialist research company CBA Consulting Group to facilitate the forums to guarantee consistency of data collection. Participants worked together in groups and recorded their feedback to a series of questions in answer booklets. The information was collated and a report and executive summary was prepared and reviewed by a sub-committee of the BCITO Carpentry National Advisory Group [BCNAG].

After reviewing the report and executive summary, the sub-committee made recommendations to the BCNAG. The members of the National Advisory Group met to review the committees recommendations and have agreed to make a number of changes, in preparation for the full review of the Carpentry qualification in 2007.

Some of the recommendations or changes made by the Carpentry National Advisory Group include;

- Increasing the areas in the qualification around regulatory requirements, codes, compliance, and licensing.
- Further consultation with the commercial sector to ensure the qualification is still meeting their needs.
- A higher consideration of numeracy and literacy skills is required for both those entering the qualification and those already completing it.
- That the National Certificate in Carpentry remains intact as the national standard for Carpenters and not be split to reflect the different areas of work or sectors that Carpenters work in.
- That the BCITO investigate ways in which they can encourage apprentices to maintain an up to date knowledge of new materials, products and changes to the regulatory regime.
- Modification of some specific practical unit standards to reflect commercial and residential scenarios.
- Acknowledgement of both structural steel and steel framed construction within the

qualification.

In 2007 the recommendations in their entirety will be incorporated into the full review of the carpentry qualification which will include a detailed study of the unit standards and resource material. Regional Focus Groups will be formed to achieve this and if anyone would like to be a part of one, please get in touch with your local BCITO office.

The two reports will be available on the BCITO website on the 'News' page www.bcito.org.nz/news/bcito/ in early December and will be posted to participants involved in the forums within the next two weeks. Please contact BCITO Qualifications Manager Pauline Sutton on Pauline.sutton@bcito.org.nz if you require any further information.

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