

INQAAHE Conference April 2013

“Quality assurance of mātauranga Māori qualifications and institutions in New Zealand”

Abstract of a paper to be delivered by Tim Fowler, Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance, New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

Conference Theme: Managing Diversity – Sustainable Quality Assurance Processes

Conference Sub-theme Two: Innovative approaches to external QA in tertiary education: not a single approach towards excellence

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)’s evaluative quality assurance framework provides the flexibility to recognise education success and excellence in different contexts.

Māori are indigenous peoples of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Mātauranga Māori is an extensive body of knowledge specific to Māori communities integral to Māori conceptions of education success. Mātauranga Māori attempts to capture what is treasured by Māori, and is often described as a global way of exploring and referencing Māori world views that have been shaped from Māori values, traditions and experiences over time.

NZQA recognises the importance of mātauranga Māori as providing a foundation for Māori success in all forms of education. With this in mind, Aotearoa/New Zealand needed a quality assurance approach that provided a constructive way of coming to a ‘shared’ understanding between Māori and NZQA of excellence in education capability and performance.

In 2010, NZQA embarked on a major world-leading project to develop appropriate tools and processes to quality assure mātauranga Māori qualifications and institutions with the support and guidance of key stakeholders. Mātauranga Māori evaluative quality assurance (MM EQA) is NZQA’s response.

MM EQA is a partnership between mātauranga Māori and NZQA’s evaluative framework, which represents a *starting point* of a quality assurance approach driven from an authentic Māori world view. The paper will describe the background to, and development of, MM EQA.

22 November 2012