

# Integrating micro-credentials: The New Zealand experience

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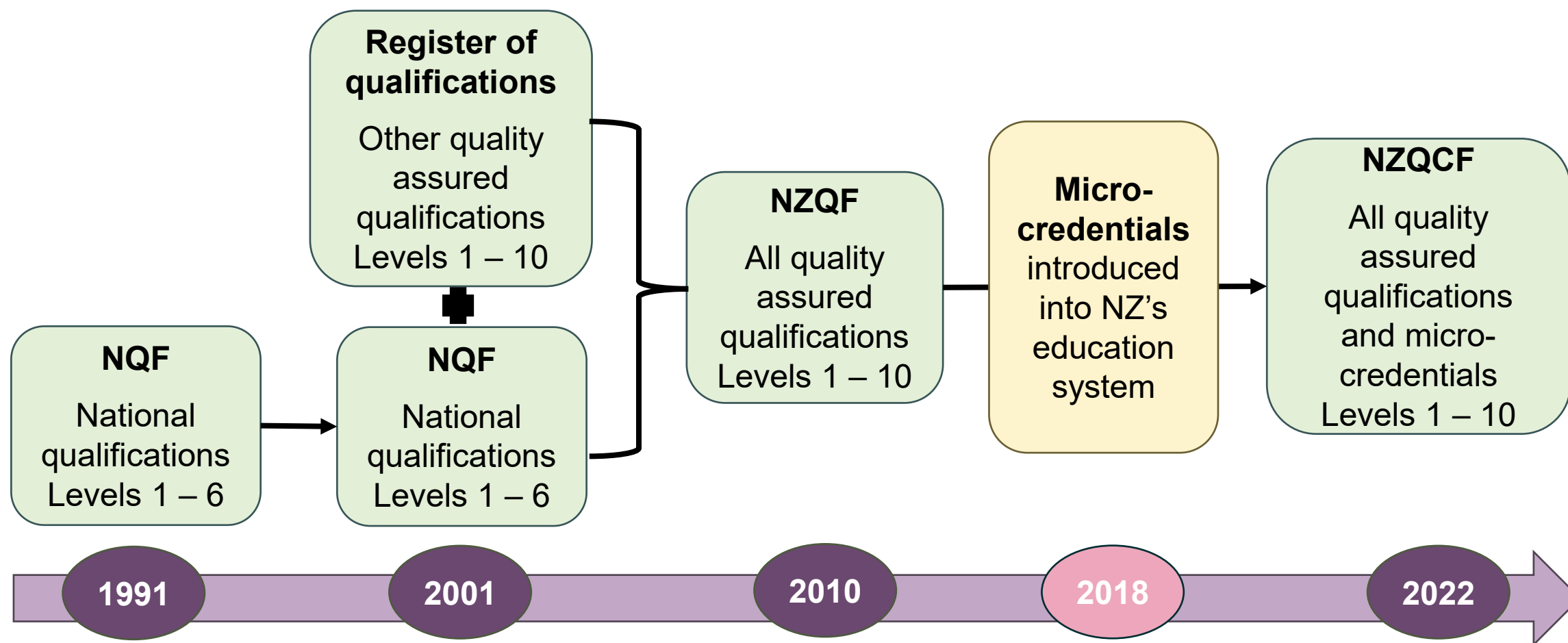
Melinda Hall

New Zealand Qualifications Authority



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

# Our National Qualifications Framework



# Introduction of micro-credentials into New Zealand's education system

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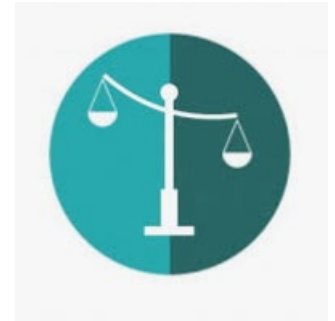


# Pilots

- Otago Polytechnic – EduBits
- Udacity – Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree
- Young Enterprise Trust – Young Enterprise Scheme

## Benefits:

- Recognition
- Comparability (to a level of the qualification framework and credit value)
- Quality



# Recognition of micro-credentials: 2018 – 2022

## Definition

A type of training scheme (study or training that leads to an award that is not a qualification) which:

- certifies the achievement of a specific set of skills and knowledge
- has a statement of purpose and clear learning outcomes
- has demonstrable support from the relevant industries, employers, or communities
- has a credit value of 5 to 40 credits (approx. 50-400 notional hours of learning)
- does not duplicate other quality assured learning approved by NZQA

# Recognition of micro-credentials: 2018 – 2022

## **NZQA approval and listing in the register of micro-credentials**

### Details required:

- Title
- Credit value and level
- Classification code
- Purpose
- Support

### Criteria to be met:

- Coherent structure with learning outcomes
- Appropriate delivery methods
- Adequate resources, facilities, support systems and appropriate teaching staff
- Suitable information available to students
- Fair and valid assessment methodologies and a system for moderation of assessments
- Ongoing review and monitoring of outcomes

# Inclusion of micro-credentials in the qualifications framework

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# Recognition of micro-credentials: from 2022

## Purpose

- Pathways and tasters
- Upskilling and re-skilling
- New skills and emerging areas



# Recognition of micro-credentials: from 2022

## **Updated definition**

A micro-credential formally certifies the achievement of a coherent set of learning outcomes.

It is specified by a statement of purpose, learning outcomes, and strong evidence of need by industry, employers, iwi, hapū and/or the community.

A micro-credential typically has a credit value of 5 to 40 credits.

It may be used to form part of a programme leading to a qualification.

# Recognition of micro-credentials: from 2022

## Updated regulations

1

### Listing

Title  
Credit value & level  
Purpose & outcome  
Review period

2

### Approval

Learning outcomes  
Need & acceptability  
Requirements  
Content review

3

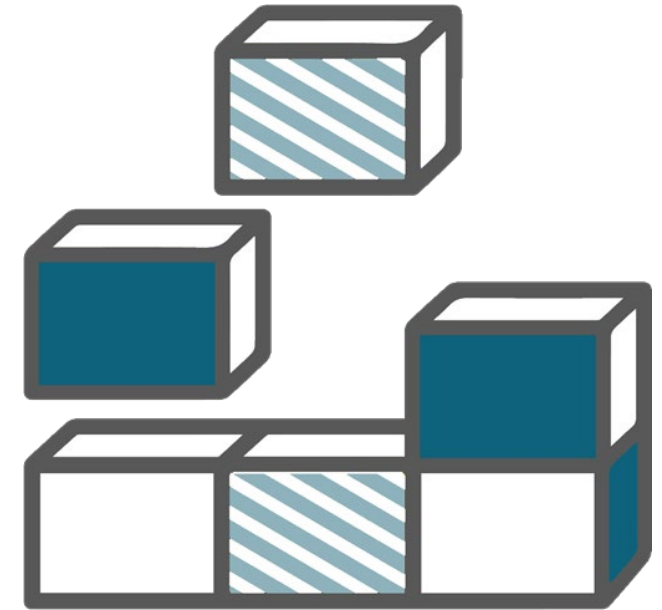
### Accreditation

Delivery approach  
Assessment  
Resources  
Delivery review

# Stacking micro-credentials towards qualifications

A micro-credential is approved as a stand-alone education product.

Any micro-credential can potentially be stacked into a programme leading to a qualification.



# Quality assuring micro-credentials

## **Similar approach as for qualifications**

Requirements for listing, approval and accreditation

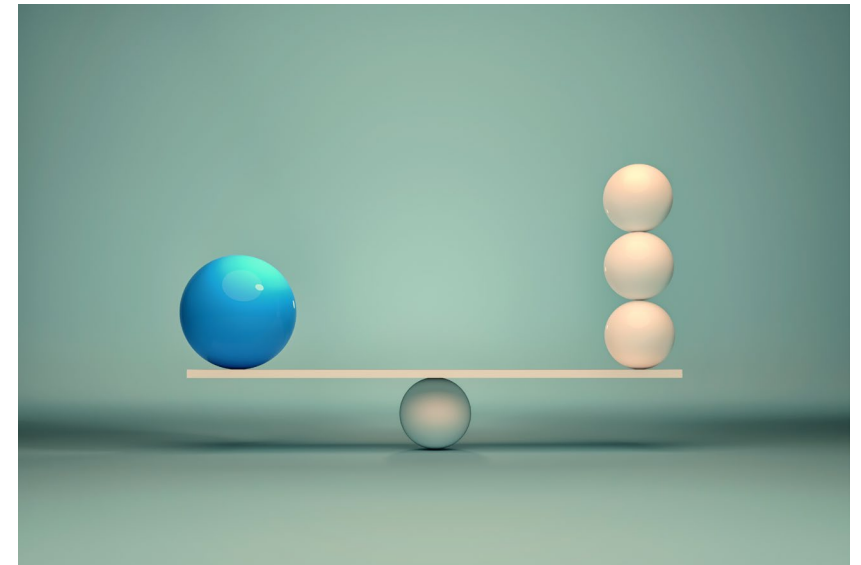
Use existing quality assurance systems

## **‘Lighter-touch’ quality assurance**

Ensuring quality

Quick and easy approval processes

Less ongoing compliance effort



# Utilisation of micro-credentials



# Uptake of micro-credentials

2018

Micro-credentials introduced

2022

Around 280 registered micro-credentials  
Majority at lower levels, 7% at level 7 or 8

2023

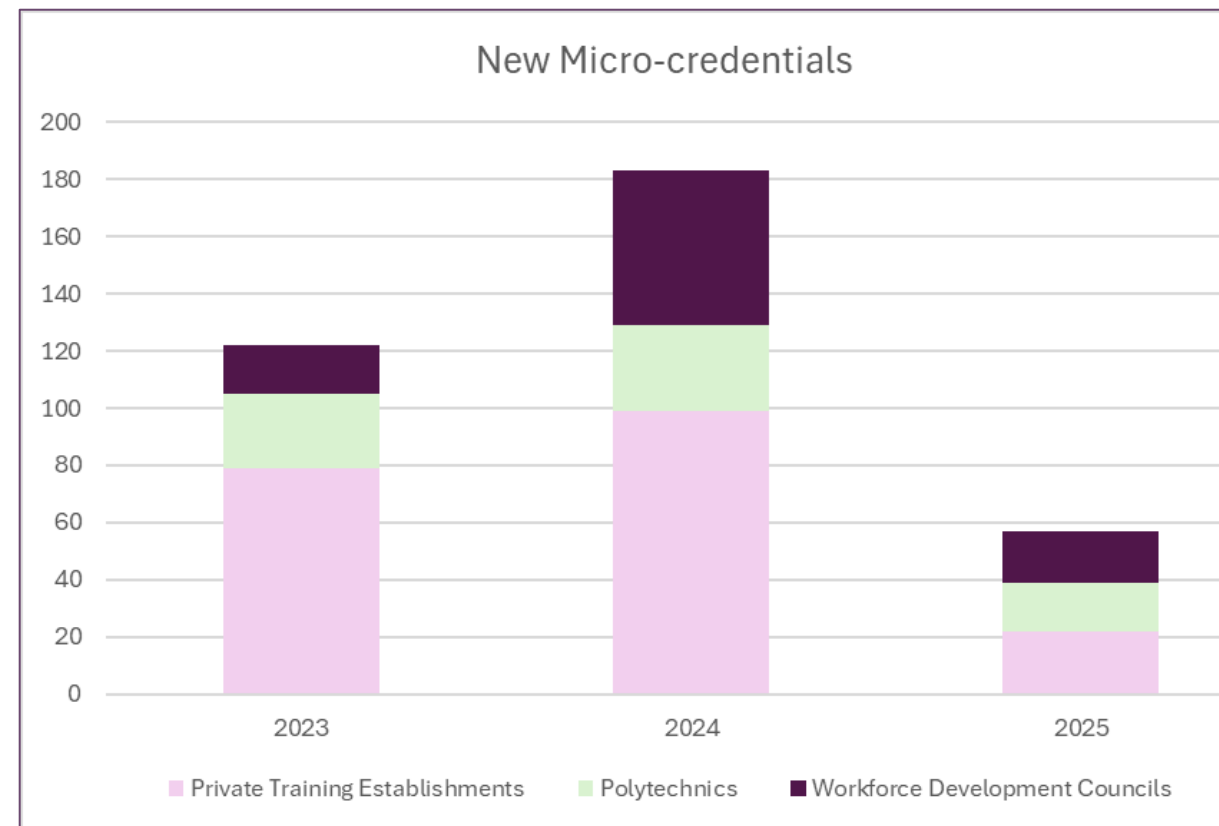
Over 400 approved micro-credentials  
127 new in 2023

2024

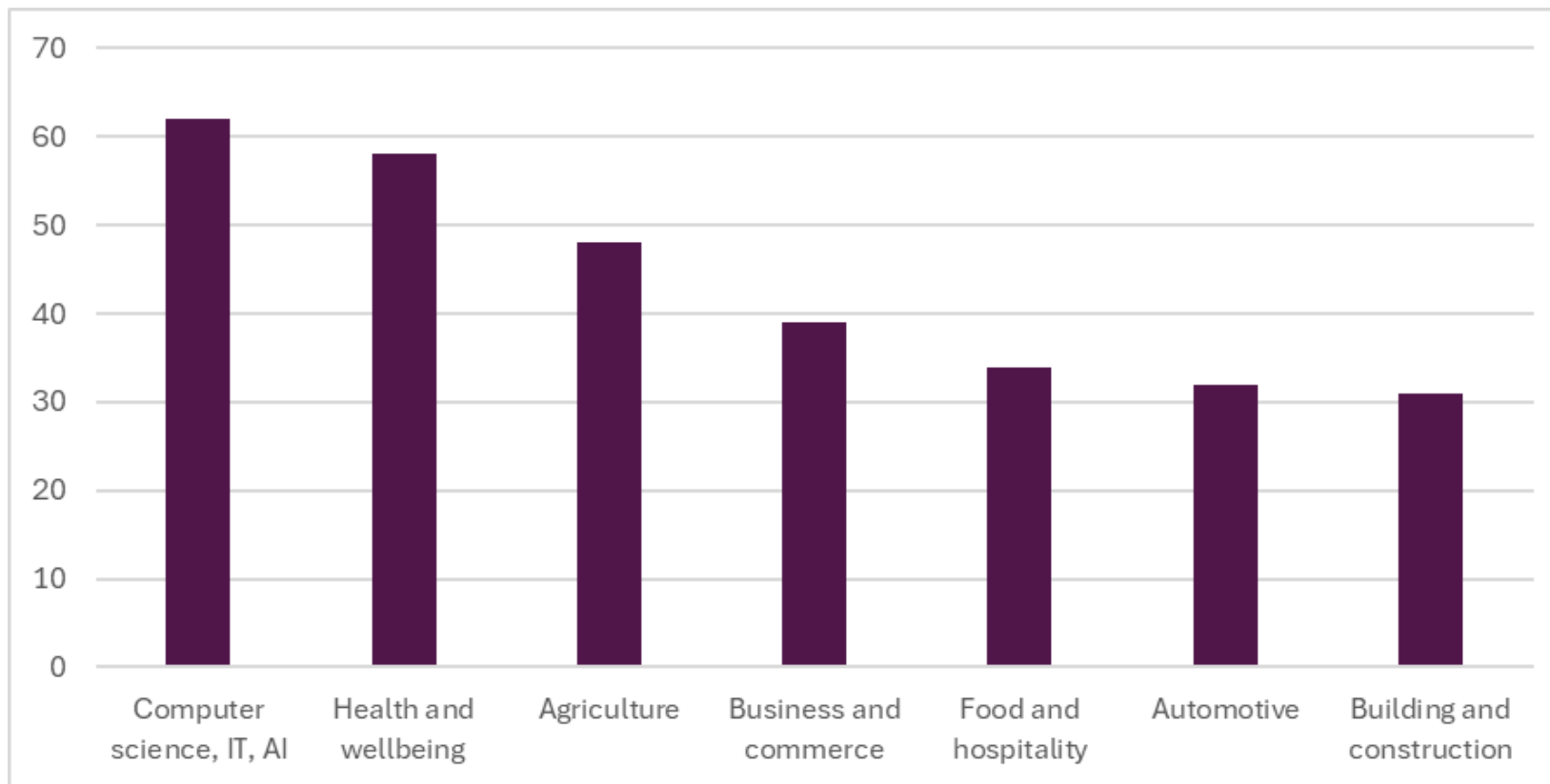
Around 550 approved micro-credentials  
185 new

2025

600 approved micro-credentials currently  
60 new approvals so far this year



# Common subject areas for micro-credentials



## Micro-credentials awarded in 2025



Overall



Primary  
Industries



Motor  
Industries



Stratcom  
Securities



Future  
Skills

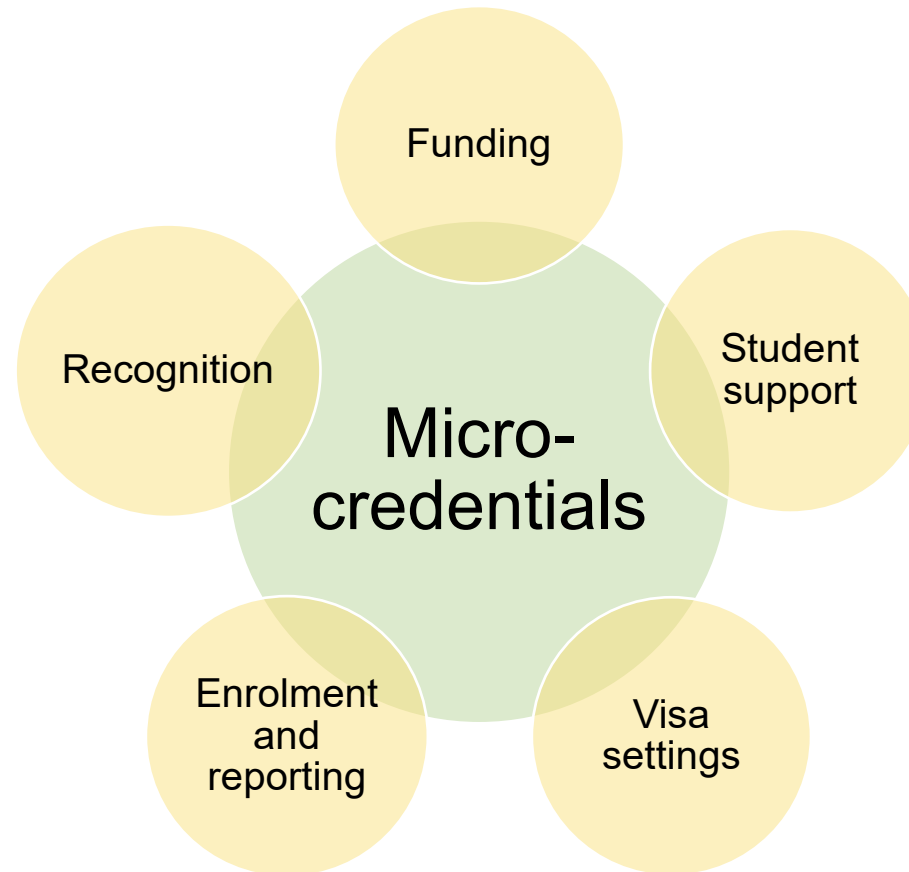


QED  
Associates



Connexis

# Aligning wider education settings



# Kia ora Thank you

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[www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)



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