



Submission in response to the Australian Universities Accord Discussion Paper

Prepared by the My eQuals Steering Committee

11 April 2023

The My eQuals Steering Committee provides governance and strategic oversight of the [My eQuals](#) platform, operations, and the future roadmap. The Steering Committee acts in the best interest, and on behalf of all My eQuals participants (currently 47 Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) universities and 27 TAFEs, NUHEPs and University Colleges).

Through this submission to the Australian Universities Accord, the My eQuals Steering Committee recommends Commonwealth Government investment and collaboration in My eQuals, to accelerate its development towards a National Credentials Platform.

The Steering Committees’ Vision for a National Credentials Platform that builds on My eQuals strongly aligns with the following themes that are contemplated in the Australian Universities Accord Discussion Paper:

- Meeting Australia’s Knowledge and Skills Needs – Collaboration with Industry (3.2.4) and Lifelong Learning (3.2.5)
- Connection between the vocational education and training and higher education systems – Pathways for Students (3.3.2)
- Creating opportunity for all Australians – Addressing Barriers to Access (3.5.2)

With My eQuals, the sector has established the foundations for a National Credentials Platform

My eQuals was conceived by the ANZ universities in 2015 to provide learners with easy and secure access to their digital credential records and the ability for learners to share those records for further study or employment purposes.

My eQuals represents a \$30 million sector investment, has been in full operation since late 2018 and is a remarkable success. It has ANZ-wide whole-of-sector participation, more than 8 million AQF credentials and microcredentials have been issued, nearly 2.5 million registered learner accounts have been created and there is global recognition and acceptance of My eQuals as the official source of trusted ANZ credentials. The technology that underpins My eQuals has proven to be robust, scalable, secure and fraud resistant. The My eQuals operating and governance model is flexible and adjustable to serve evolving needs and stakeholders.

Achieving this success has taken significant time, effort and commitment from the sector, it is not an outcome that can be achieved instantaneously.

Building on this success, the My eQuals Steering Committee is now guiding the My eQuals strategic roadmap, including:

- Expansion of participation in My eQuals to TAFEs, VETs, HEPs and professional bodies.
- Development of services and capabilities that facilitate lifelong learning and greater national and international student mobility.
- Development of services that enhance graduate employability outcomes, informed by the needs of the workforce community.

Investment will allow My eQuals to serve as the National Credentials Platform

A National Credentials Platform (NCP) should support a future of lifelong learning, engage all stakeholders (education providers, workforce community, government, professional bodies) and offer a comprehensive feature set.

Some of these features will require enabling standards and frameworks to be established in the broader ecosystem.

The table below sets out the potential NCP feature sets, feature already in place on My eQuals, and the key enablers of features that could be delivered in a future NCP.

Feature	Existing (My eQuals)	Enablers
Anytime anywhere access to AQF credentials records for Learners	Y	

Ability for Learners to easily share AQF credentials records, and for Receivers to instantly verify/accept	Y	
Ability to view, access and share AQF credentials records received from multiple education providers	Y	
Ability to view, access and share microcredentials records (badges) received from multiple education providers	Y	
Ability for Learners to curate their profile, so it serves specific needs and Receiver requirements (employment, further study)	Y	
Connectivity with Credentials Platforms in other countries to aid international Learner mobility	Y	
Presentation of skills and competency levels (general, profession specific) of the Learner	N	Nationally agreed and recognised skills recognition framework
Recognition of Prior Learning inclusion in Learner Profile		Nationally agreed and recognised approach and codification of RPL
Ability to “stack” microcredentials towards obtainment of an AQF credential	N	Nationally agreed and recognised microcredentials framework
Ability to identify/apply for training requirements/course offerings to meet specific employment opportunities	N	Nationally agreed and recognised framework for linking occupations, skills and training/courses
Presentation of employment opportunities that are relevant to the Learner profile and ability for Learner to apply for those opportunities	N	Nationally agreed and recognised framework for linking occupations, skills and training/courses
Management of a financial learning entitlement or similar to lifelong learners	N	Nationally agreed financial allowance model for lifelong learning
Reporting to stakeholders (government, education providers) of trends, gaps, needs, outcomes	N	All of the above

National systems of this scale and scope require strong and persistent leadership and governance, development of enabling policies, frameworks and standards, and buy-in through participation in its design by all stakeholders; government, the tertiary education sector (all levels), professional bodies and industry bodies. There will also be significant benefit in leveraging the lessons learnt from similar initiatives and systems elsewhere in the world.

Funding needs to be commensurate with the size and ambition of the NCP system and broader enabling ecosystem.

This submission strongly believes that an approach that builds on My eQuals will allow for the most expedient establishment of a comprehensive and broadly adopted National Credentials Platform.

CONTACT

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