

Innovations in qualifications

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Getting the qualifications system to work better for learners, and for New Zealand's society and economy is at the centre of the first New Zealand qualifications forum being held in Wellington tomorrow.

The sold-out forum is being organised by the Industry Training Federation in response to a need for a cross sector professional opportunity to discuss issues around qualifications. Attendees include those from the secondary and tertiary education sectors as well as unions, professional and business associations and government departments.

"The fact that the forum filled up in just a couple of weeks indicates to me that there is a widespread desire to improve the qualification system," Federation Executive Director Jeremy Baker said today.

"While people's ideas on how to achieve that might differ, I don't think there is any doubt that we have too many qualifications. There are around 6000 qualifications in New Zealand, which is far too many for most countries let alone one with fewer than 5 million people.

"There is duplication and confusion. However, there are also aspects that work well and widespread agreement that better collaboration can only benefit learners.

"This is the first time in more than ten years that such a cross sectoral group has met on this issue and I am hopeful that it will result in improvements," Mr Baker said.

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The Industry Training Federation is a voluntary membership organisation representing New Zealand's 39 Industry Training Organisations.