Australian National Microcredentials Marketplace

23 June 2022
Context

**Employment and education policy**

The Australian Government will invest **$4.3 million over three years** to build a national online marketplace for microcredentials to strengthen **credit recognition**, **industry relevance** of qualifications and **lifelong learning**.

**Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) review**

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) review found that microcredentials are an **emerging credential** with the possibility to offer business with **job ready skills** in both the VET and **higher education** sectors. This proposal builds on the response to the AQF review recommendations on microcredentials and provides a framework to ensure **value for money**, giving **students and businesses** the assurance they need to invest in this **new delivery mode**.
Vision

Standards based digital platform to search and compare microcredentials offered across Australia.

Display arrangements for credit recognition, pathways and portability.

Showcase stacking capability to highlight the flexibility of microcredentials.

Interoperability with other government and international initiatives.

Monitor trends to provide data on demand and usage of microcredentials.

Enable and encourage the higher education, vocational education, training, and industry sectors to develop short-course programs to deliver 'real time' skillsets based on labour market needs.
Value proposition model

Learners
- Bite size learning
- Improved credit transparency
- Greater flexibility for stacking
- Streamlined access nationally

Providers
- Government-endorsed platform
- Greater trust and larger reach
- Develop offerings to maximise value
- Data reporting on demand and usage

Employers
- Industry aligned microcredentials
- Mapped to Australian Skills Classification
- Upskilling and reskilling workforce
- Improving business efficiencies
The credential data model standards are based on linked open data principles. Credential objects contain a structured schema using a common language.
National Microcredentials Framework

The Federal Government engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting to develop a National Microcredentials Framework. Released in late March 2022, the Framework was developed with the following objectives:

- Provide greater clarity and understanding as to the **value**, **structure**, and **recognition** of microcredentials.
- Create and encourage **transparency**, **consistency**, and **objectivity** around credit recognition arrangements and microcredentials.
- Provide users with **robust information** about microcredentials.
Credential data model standard

The **credential schema** utilises a common language for system interoperability.

**Credential Schema**

**Credential Relationships**

Credential objects can be linked to express the **relationships** between them.

- **Stacking**
  Credential to credential relationships
  Vertical, lateral, nested, latticed

- **Credit**
  Academic credit, recognition of prior learning

- **Pathways**
  Academic pathways, articulations
  Career pathways, industry accreditations
Credential relationships

Credit recognition
- Higher Education and Vocational Education
- Inter and intra institution
- Unit of exchange
- Credit stacking

Build pathways
- Education pathways
- Career pathways
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- **Consistency** of information displayed.
- **Search** by industry or educators.
- Intuitive and **user-friendly** interface.
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- Allow learners to make meaningful comparisons.
- Stipulate **recognition** towards industry or vendor certifications.
- Specify where the microcredentials are recognised by an educational institution for **credit** or **advanced standing**.
- **Quality indicators**.
- **Transparency** in stating assessments, entry requirements and outcomes.
Next steps

Higher education providers engaged.

Vocational providers currently being engaged.


Provider onboarding throughout 2022 and 2023.

Annual reviews of the Microcredentials Framework to ensure currency.
Thank you