

What is Tapatoru?

Tapatoru is the reo Māori name of the Foundation Learning Professional Standards Framework. This framework describes the capability of practitioners working with foundation-level learners.

Who is Tapatoru for?

If your foundation-level learners, clients or workforce need support with language, literacy and/or numeracy, then Tapatoru is for you.

What are foundation-level learners?

Foundation-level learners include all learners at NZQA levels 1-3 needing language, literacy and/or numeracy support embedded into their work or study in a culturally appropriate way.

What do you mean by 'practitioners'?

Practitioners include tutors, and learning support staff who have learners or clients needing assistance with language, literacy and numeracy.

What are the components of Tapatoru?

Tapatoru integrates three dimensions of professional values, professional knowledge and professional practice:

- » Ō tātou uara - What we value
- » Ō tātou mōhiotanga - What we understand
- » Ā Tātou mahi - What we do

There is also a set of awards, **Ko Ngā Tohu** which recognises practitioner skills and expertise at each of four skill levels.

What are the Tapatoru awards?

There are four awards which each relate to a set of descriptors. Assessment is by submission of a practitioner portfolio. The awards are:

- » Pūkenga Papa Tahī: Skill Level 1
- » Pūkenga Papa Rua: Skill Level 2
- » Pūkenga Papa Toru: Skill Level 3
- » Pūkenga Papa Whā: Skill Level 4

Is Tapatoru a new type of qualification?

Tapatoru is a professional standards framework. Practitioners working with foundation-level learners can use it to demonstrate their capability over time.

Tapatoru is not a qualification like the New Zealand Certificate in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education

(Vocational/workplace) or the New Zealand Certificate in Adult Tertiary Teaching. These types of qualifications are NZQA credentials which are often used for initial tutor or teacher training and professional development you might undertake.

What NZQA level are we talking about?

Conversations about NZQA levels can get complicated. For example, one factor relates to the level which you as a practitioner should be operating at when it comes to your professional development. Another factor relates to the level of your programme. Also, some higher-level programmes sometimes attract learners with the same issues as learners at lower levels.

We think it's easier to talk about what kind of learners you have. If your employees or learners need language, literacy or numeracy support then you need to be working with Tapatoru.

How will I be assessed against Tapatoru?

As a practitioner, you will be invited to submit an evidence portfolio. One component of this is likely to be a narrative that demonstrates what you know and what you do, as underpinned by your professional values. This will be supported by other forms of portfolio evidence, including professional references and successful engagement with ongoing professional learning and development.

Assessment is set against descriptors for each of the four skill levels.

Where can I find out more about the Tapatoru descriptors?

The current version of Tapatoru descriptors is available [here](#).

If I am a tutor with a qualification, does that mean that I'm automatically eligible for an award at a particular level?

No. But if it's relevant you can use your qualification, as well as any skills and experience gained, as part of your evidence portfolio.

This resource is part of a wider Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability (ALNACC) package of evidence-informed models and frameworks we developed as part of a new integrated approach to enhance the capability of practitioners and organisations in foundation education. Visit www.ako.ac.nz/alnacc for more information and to download all resources.
