

Tapatoru FAQ from Graeme's Tapatoru Webinar

1. Is this already up and running or is this something that Ako Aotearoa is looking at rolling out?

Ako Aotearoa released the Tapatoru in December 2018. We did some further development work in 2019 and ran a very limited trial which resulted in our first two awardees.

In 2020 we're looking at rolling it out further with several larger groups. Two of these have been signed up with specific providers, but we may be able to create one or two more if there are enough people interested independently.

2. Who would we send the portfolio to?

Once completed, you would submit the portfolio digitally to an administrator at Ako Aotearoa who would assign it to people in our team to assess. Currently, we can do this by email but we may look at other possibilities as well.

3. What is the starting point for Skill Level 3?

Skill Level 3 - Pūkenga Papa Toru is not in scope at the moment. However, the starting point would be something like this: highly experienced practitioners who have a recognised area of expertise.

There's more in the Tapatoru Descriptor 3 which you can download from the [Ako Aotearoa website](#)

4. How would an assessment of the currency of someone's knowledge happen?

Evidence of the currency of someone's knowledge will be drawn from the portfolio which includes a CV and questionnaire, reflective commentary plus two professional references.

If we have questions regarding currency we will reach out to people who can confirm this such as the referees.

5. Have the TEC indicated that they would accept, say, Skills Level 2 as an 'or equivalent' for funding conditions for ILN and WLN?

The TEC commissioned this work in 2017 in response to the findings from their own research indicating, among other things, that the quality of graduates holding NZCALNE and similar

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qualifications was variable and did not always indicate whether someone knew how to embed literacy and numeracy or was familiar with the literacy and numeracy infrastructure funded by the TEC.

Currently, the TEC funding conditions do not reference the Tapatoru by name. However, you could make a case that the Tapatoru meets the 'or equivalent' part of the conditions. Success is likely to depend on the context. Funding determinations and related conditions get signed off by the Minister so they are not easy to change or quickly update.

6. Can we get the slides?

Yes. [The slides are available for download here](#), just below the first video.

7. Does the Tapatoru align with the new NZCALNE (Voc)?

Yes. The Tapatoru was designed to align with the new NZCALNE (Voc) as well as the new NZCATT. They are different systems and do different things, but it's possible to unpack something like the NZCALNE (Voc) and situate the values, knowledge and practice from this qualification within the Tapatoru framework.

These qualifications, and others, are currently under review by Ako Aotearoa and we hope to increase the alignment between all of them, especially with regards to cultural competency.

8. Are managers of adult and literacy and numeracy organisations aware of this framework? Or have they started to implement it?

Some are and some are probably are not. Our approach has been more of a soft launch as we are still working out some of the processes.

Our intention is that we continue to test and work out these processes through implementation with four projects in 2020. The development model is an agile one as we're still fine-tuning how it works based on feedback from early adopters.

9. Who will be assessing these portfolios?

In the first instance, Ako Aotearoa staff and qualified workforce will be the assessors. Our goal is to widen this to include a network of other assessors as it becomes more widely adopted.

Ideally, what we would like is a system where those further up the award structure help assess those who are further down or just getting started.

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10. Is foundational learning is more than just literacy and numeracy?

Yes. It's not a hard and fast distinction, but anyone teaching, training or providing learning support at level 3 or below is doing foundation education.

Typically learners in these programmes need embedded, or sometimes very specialised, literacy, numeracy and other support including delivery in a way that is responsive to Māori, Pacific and/or other cultural values and perspectives.

11. Could this framework serve also as bases for recruitment or promotion?

The Tapatoru was not designed as a recruitment tool. However, the award belongs to the awardee, not their employer. This means that it is something that adds value to practitioners in the marketplace as well as demonstrating currency.

Also, the award structure was designed to show and reward progress over time in terms of recognising the professional skills of practitioners in our sector. In this way, it could be linked to promotion, although this is a decision for TEOs and businesses.

12. I am managing tutors who are foundation tutors but it is not only LLN. Could this be broadened?

Yes. See our answer above for 10.

Do you have a format or form to start filling in for the Tapatoru award?

Yes, but we also have a process to bring you onboard and we're starting with that first. Following, this introductory series of emails we'll get into the Portfolio and what you need to do for that.

I'm at the start of my teaching and learning journey. Is it too soon for me to participate?

No, it's not. We want to develop two pathways for gaining the Tapatoru awards. And these are probably on a continuum as well, but in the first pathway experienced educators with existing

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experience will be able to work quickly to put together a portfolio highlighting what they know and do and how their values underpin this work. This is the recognition of prior learning (RPL) pathway.

The second pathway is the professional learning and development (PLD) pathway. If you are a new teacher or at the start of this journey, we want to be able to help you along the way. That means that we may be able to support you with some of the training that you need to gain the skills, knowledge and experience required to complete your Tapatoru portfolio.