# Digital assessment

### What is digital assessment transformation?

NZQA's Digital Assessment Transformation programme is intended to modernise and digitise a number of the NCEA assessment functions that NZQA administers. It will ensure our systems are fit-for-purpose and new technologies will allow us to deliver a new end-to-end process for undertaking assessments online, moving to on-demand, anywhere and anytime.

Digital assessment is focused on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship examinations.

### What does digital assessment mean?

"Digital assessment" is the presentation of evidence, for judging student achievement, managed through the medium of computer technology. (Computer technology refers to hardware, software and networks.)

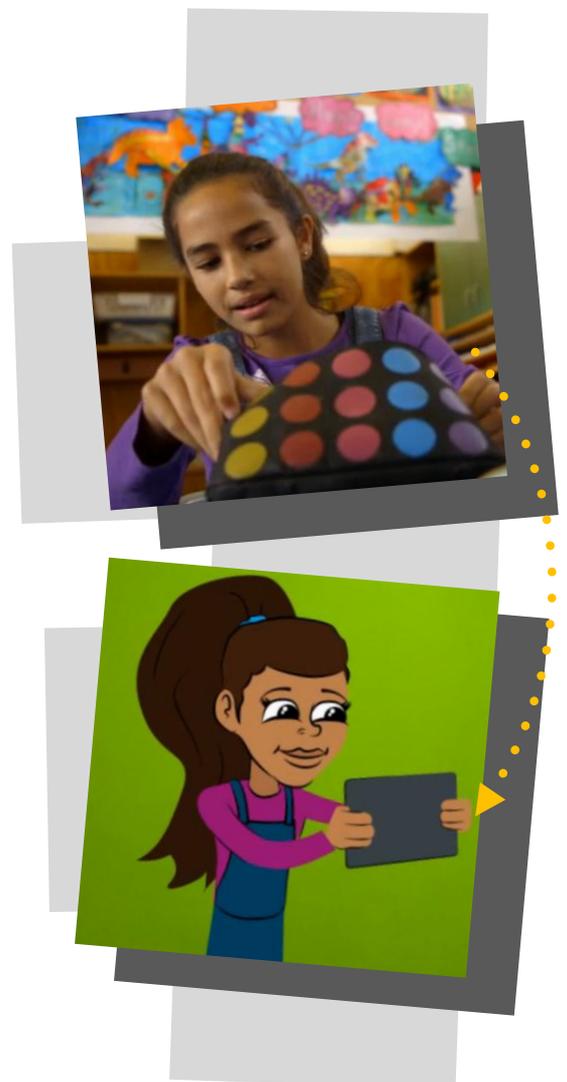### Why is this being progressed?

NZQA recognises that globalisation and digital technology are changing the expectations of our customers. We must ensure that qualifications continue to remain robust and credible and yet respond to rapidly changing times.

We know teaching and learning is becoming more personalised to each learner. Technology provides an opportunity for assessment to be integrated into the learning process - with a focus on problem solving and creation of new knowledge applied to real world situations.

Digital technology is already providing opportunities for teaching and learning to move from a focus on content to a focus on critical thinking. Teachers are doing this in classrooms already and assessment needs to reflect these changes in pedagogical practices.

### How is this work being progressed?

NZQA is taking a user-centric approach, and we will be working closely with the education community (learners, teachers, schools and education-related groups) to co-create solutions.

### Where can I find more information?

More information on this project can be found on the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz/about -us/innovation-at-nzqa
You can also email any queries to futurestate@nzqa.govt.nz

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## How is this work being progressed?

NZQA is progressing three key streams of work in 2015:

- *External Assessment* - prototyping of standards online including eMCAT, digital authoring of assessments
- *Internal Assessment* – improving and streamlining NZQA's moderation processes working with Network for Learning, improving access to assessment resources on Pond, and refreshing our best practice workshops
- *Special Assessment Conditions Accessible Technology* – some external NCEA exams in 2015 will have a text-to-speech facility available for use by students that qualify for reader and computer support

NZQA has also established specialist advisory groups to broaden our own strategic thinking about implementing digital assessment.

## When will this be implemented?

Our current planning will progress digital assessment over five years, with changes being introduced in stages:

- **In 2015**, eMCAT will be offered as a digital exam that will count towards NCEA Level 1.  Two-to-three Level 1 NCEA standards will also be offered as online practice examinations, current excellent practice in digital internal assessment will be widely shared by teachers on POND, and examples of digital assessment items in all subject areas will be available for use by teachers, best practice workshops will be refreshed.
- **By the end of 2016**, all NZQA external moderation of internal assessments will be able to be completed online
- **By the end of 2018**, at least three NCEA external exam subjects will be able to be completed online
- **By the end of 2020**, all NCEA external exams (appropriate for an online format) will be online
- **From 2020 on**, securing the ultimate goal of all appropriate assessments being undertaken online, anywhere, anytime.

## Who will benefit from this change?

- **Learners**, who will benefit from assessment being an extension of teaching and learning, and in a mode that is reflective of tools they use daily. It is likely the focus will move from retention to the application/ creation of knowledge in real world settings, enabling learners to be better prepared for future employment.
- **Learners who need special assistance**, who will benefit from the technology solutions that overcome both learning and assessment issues, and largely eliminate the need for certain special assessment conditions as all students will have access to functionality (text to speech, special fonts etc).
- **Teachers**, who will benefit from more streamlined moderation processes, being able to integrate assessment seamlessly into teaching and learning programmes, less focus on teaching to the end-of-year examination, be able to share teaching, learning and assessment resources.
- **Schools**, who will have better access to information within their school, including assessment data that can provide a feedback loop into teaching practices.
- **Employers**, who will have access to a supply of well qualified future employees, who are lifelong learners that have applied their learning in real world situations.

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