



www.dfqm.nz

New Zealand Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark

Ako Aotearoa and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) are proud to make available the New Zealand Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark (DFQM) – the only mark of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

The Quality Mark recognises organisations that take a strategic approach to creating an inclusive environment for learners, trainees, or clients with dyslexia. It is designed to promote appropriate support measures and practical guidance.

The DFQM is awarded to organisations that measure their practices against a set of DFQM standards in four key areas:

- » leadership and management
- » the quality of teaching and learning
- » the teaching and learning environment provided for learners
- » the quality of the organisation's relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

The Quality Mark is awarded for three years and can be renewed after this period.

The DFQM benefits the sector and learners

Learners, trainees, or clients with dyslexia will be assured that an organisation with the DFQM is a safe place for them, where their needs are understood and met. Here is some feedback from learners who benefit from the DFQM in organisations:

- » It has created a warm, non-judgmental, and friendly environment
- » Learning is consolidating, and my confidence is growing
- » I feel safe to be myself
- » I increased my knowledge of dyslexia which helped my learning
- » Knowing I have dyslexia is a weight off my shoulders



“The Tertiary Education Commission has supported Ako Aotearoa in the development of an exciting new initiative which is part of our wider programme of work around neurodiversity. We encourage all tertiary education organisations to use this opportunity to be accredited as a dyslexia-friendly organisation. Adopting the Mark will promote best practice within organisations and not only build educator capability, but most of all, it will ensure that learners with dyslexia are fully supported in their learning journey and have every opportunity to thrive.”

Paora Ammunson, Former Deputy Chief Executive, Tertiary Education Commission

The DFQM recognises organisations

The DFQM provides an opportunity for an organisation to be recognised for taking the steps to establishing themselves as a dyslexia-friendly organisation.

A number of organisations across Aotearoa New Zealand have been awarded the DFQM including: Premier – Part of Skills Group, Number 10 | Southland Youth One Stop Shop, Skills4Work, Hato Hone | St John Public Training and Clinical Services, Literacy Aotearoa | Ikaroa-Rāwhiti | Gisborne Cluster.

Here is what some of these organisations had to say about the DFQM process:

“Learners are at the centre of what we do. The DFQM award is an endorsement of our ongoing commitment and motivation to continue understanding, developing strategies and resources that accommodate the diverse needs of all our learners.”

**Anne Stewart -
Hato Hone | St John Public
Training and Clinical
Services**

“I know the impact that it is going to have for our learners who most of them struggle with literacy and numeracy and I think having these strategies in place is just life changing for them.”

**Jess Corbett -
Premier – Part of Skills
Group**

“This award holds profound meaning for us, because it represents something that we are deeply committed to. Creating an environment where all young people feel seen, heard, and supported. No matter the challenges they face.”

**Jude Crump -
Number 10 | Southland
Youth One Stop Shop**

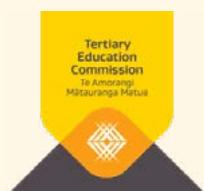
More information and how to apply

We have developed an online tool to guide you through the application and submission process. Our facilitator will support you in your self-assessment against the standards, the implementation of your action plan, and the preparation of your portfolio of evidence. The process is driven by your own timetable and fully supported by our facilitator.

Please visit www.dfqm.nz to register your organisation's interest in the DFQM, or contact Annette van Lamoen at annette.vanlamoen@ako.ac.nz for more information.



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