



ACADEMIC QUALITY AGENCY FOR NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITIES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

These AQA financial statements are included in the consolidated financial statements of NZVCC which have been audited. AQA has not been audited separately. NZVCC financial statements can be found at [New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee Financial Statements 2025 | Universities New Zealand - Te Pūkai Tara](#)

**ACADEMIC QUALITY AGENCY FOR
NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITIES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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**ACADEMIC QUALITY AGENCY FOR
NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

BACKGROUND

Establishment of AQA

The Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA) was established in 1993 (as the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit) by the New Zealand universities acting jointly through the New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC) and began operations in 1994. The AQA ceased operating as a separate entity on 31 December 2024, residual funds were paid to NZVCC for a project, "Academic Quality Agency Residual Funds" to assist with the costs of ongoing academic quality work.

AQA is a subsidiary of NZVCC for financial reporting purposes. The NZVCC made a decision at their February 2024 meeting to implement a different Governance model for institutional assessment/academic audit. The new Governance model for institutional assessment/academic audit will be implemented during 2025.

Sources of Funds

No annual operating grant were received from the universities in the 2024-2025 financial year. AQA activities from July 2024 to 31 December 2024 were funded from reserves during this period.

Undertaking reviews, revenue from Cycle 6 Audits and interest earned supplemented the reserve funds.

Further Information about Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA)

The AQA website, www.aqa.ac.nz provides a wide range of information and publications.

The AQA offices was located at Level 3, 69 The Terrace Wellington.

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STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

We acknowledge that:

- (a) The preparation of financial statements of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities and judgements used herein are our responsibility.
- (b) The establishment and maintenance of an internal control system designed to give reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the financial and non-financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2025 are our responsibility; and

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year under review fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities.

For and on behalf of the board



Emeritus Professor John Morrow
Chair of the Board
Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand
Universities



Rochelle Gribble
Acting Executive Director
Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand
Universities

Date: 16 October 2025

Date: 16 October 2025

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The Academic Quality Agency (AQA) ceased operations at the end of December 2024. AQA's board responsibilities around quality assurance and quality enhancement have been transferred to Universities New Zealand where they will be carried out under a different operating model in future.

These Statements of Objectives are therefore fully backwards looking – putting context around what was delivered up until 31 December 2024 and with no objectives at all beyond that date.

The AQA Board approved a reduced set of performance expectations at their meeting on 9 July 2024. The areas where performance expectations were set are the areas that have actual targets shown under each of the goals.

Purpose

The purpose of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities is to contribute to the advancement of New Zealand university education by:

- engaging as a leader and advocate in the development of academic quality,
- applying quality assurance and quality enhancement processes that assist universities in improving student engagement, academic experience and learning outcomes, and
- supporting confidence in the academic quality of New Zealand universities.

Terms of Reference

AQA was expected to:

- acknowledge the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- maintain consistency with international expectations, standards and developments in external quality assurance;
- advise the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee and Universities New Zealand on quality assurance matters;
- reflect areas of importance to universities with respect to their teaching, learning, student experience and student outcomes activities;
- undertake quality assurance reviews (currently in the form of an academic audit) that are robust, fair and perceptive and that assist universities and their students;
- acknowledge and respect the individual contexts of universities in undertaking quality assurance reviews;
- make provision for appeals regarding the content of a quality assurance review;
- publish quality assurance reviews of universities;
- identify and promote good practice in quality assurance and enhancement;

- support the contribution of an effective student voice in quality assurance and enhancement;
- recognise other accountabilities and responsibilities of universities;
- maintain a constructive relationship with the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) that recognises the responsibilities of CUAP and AQA;
- contribute to the development of quality assurance in New Zealand and internationally;
- undertake contract work as is compatible with its purpose and terms of reference.

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STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Contextual Information

The Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA) was established by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC) in 1993 as an operationally independent body to carry out institutional quality assurance and promote quality enhancement for the universities.¹

It ceased operations on 31 December 2024.

The Purpose of AQA was to contribute to the advancement of New Zealand university education by:

- engaging as a leader and advocate in the development of universities based on high quality, internationally acceptable, academic practices;
- providing quality assurance and quality enhancement services which assist universities in facilitating excellent student experience and learning outcomes; and
- supporting confidence in the academic quality of New Zealand universities.²

AQA achieved its purpose through six strategic goals:

1. Be a Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsive organisation and good Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner
2. Be recognised as a leader and authoritative voice in academic quality
3. Deliver value to universities and students in (Cycle 6) academic audit
4. Support quality enhancement in universities
5. Contribute to confidence in the academic quality of New Zealand universities
6. Continue to be a well-performing quality assurance agency.

These goals were pursued through five strategic action areas:

1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi (TT)
2. Best practice (BP)
3. Communications and engagement (CE)
4. Partnerships and relationships (PR)
5. Resourcing and capability (RC)

This statement of performance expectations sets out objectives and measures AQA plans to achieve in the July 2023 to June 2024 period to progress towards its goals.

¹ Originally established as the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit.

² AQA (2021). Constitution. Retrieved from
<https://www.aqa.ac.nz/sites/all/files/AQA%20Constitution%20Approved%20Dec%202021.pdf>

This statement of performance expectations was derived from the 2022-2027 strategic framework and informed by AQA's Te Tiriti o Waitangi Action Plan and the Cycle 6 Academic Audit schedule.

The six months that AQA was operating in this period saw continued high levels of academic audit activity.

Total cost of service:

	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 Budget
Total income	\$58,910	\$72,100	\$529,930	\$533,250
Total expenditure	\$196,585	\$322,323	\$539,477	\$622,845
Surplus/deficit	\$(137,675)	\$(250,223)	\$(9,547)	\$(89,595)

Note on the Goals

The AQA Board approved a reduced set of performance expectations at their meeting on 9 July 2024. The areas where performance expectations were set are the areas that have actual targets shown under each of the goals.

Goal 1: Be a Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsive organisation and good Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner

Description: AQA understands that Te Tiriti is central to its work, functions, and processes. AQA has mechanisms to ensure equitable Māori participation and leadership in setting priorities, and resourcing, implementing, and evaluating the organisation's work. AQA also ensures its services are provided in a culturally appropriate way, which includes te ao Māori values influencing the way AQA works.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected and current status	2023/24 Planned
1.1 Te Tiriti o Waitangi Plan (TT)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	No review of AQA's Te Tiriti Action Plan will be undertaken	Review Te Tiriti Action Plan
1.2 Develop values for AQA framed within mātauranga Māori	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Will not be achieved	Values developed, design created and published
1.3 Academic quality material available in te reo Māori (CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Te reo Māori policy approved October 2023. Audit reports executive summaries are translated into te reo Māori	Te reo Māori policy in place by end 2023 Change email signatures, voicemails, correspondence to include te reo Māori in line with te reo Māori policy

<i>Measure</i>	<i>2024/25 Projected and current status</i>	<i>2024/25 Planned</i>	<i>2023/24 Projected and current status</i>	<i>2023/24 Planned</i>
				<i>Update website to include te reo Māori content, with content increasing a minimum of 10%</i>
<i>1.4 Review and revise AQA policies to ensure alignment with Te Tiriti (BP, TT)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations</i>	<i>Policies reviewed October 2023 and published</i>	<i>Policies reviewed</i>
<i>1.5 Board membership (TT, RC)</i>	<i>2 current members of the AQA Board whakapapa Māori, the position nominated by Te Mana Ākonga was vacant Jun-Dec 2024</i>	<i>At least 3 members of the AQA Board whakapapa Māori, including a member nominated by Te Mana Ākonga</i>	<i>2 current members of the AQA Board whakapapa Māori, the position nominated by Te Mana Ākonga was vacant Jan-Jun 2024</i>	<i>At least 3 members of the AQA Board whakapapa Māori, including a member nominated by Te Mana Ākonga</i>
<i>1.6 AQA capability – audit Panels (TT, RC)</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>All audit Panels appointed have at least one member who is Māori</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>All audit Panels appointed have at least one member who is Māori</i>
<i>1.7 Auditor training (TT, RC)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations</i>	<i>On track. All non-Māori auditors will have participated in at least one Te Tiriti o Waitangi training module or have equivalent experience</i>	<i>100% audit Panel members who are not Māori have participated in Te Tiriti o Waitangi training or have equivalent experience</i>
<i>1.8 Develop authentic relationships with Māori (PR, TT)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations</i>	<i>Not progressed</i>	<i>Develop a Māori relationship plan</i>

Goal 2: Be recognised as a leader and authoritative voice in academic quality

Description: AQA has a leadership role in the development of good quality assurance practice. It draws from developments internationally and nationally to inform future practice. Developments in practice include working in partnership, providing advice and contributing to national and international discussions.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
2.1 Activities in partnership agreement with NZUSA achieved (PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Partnership active to the end of December 2023 when NZUSA ceased operational activity. Additional meetings held with Te Mana Ākonga 26 March 2024 and 14 June 2024	Partnership activities achieved
2.2 Develop and undertake activities in a partnership agreement with Te Mana Ākonga (TT, PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Partnership agreement agreed to be signed but not progressed due to lack of certainty over further role of AQA	Partnership agreed Partnership activities achieved
2.3 Develop and maintain a “State of the Sector” analysis (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Not be developed due to lack of staff capacity	Report accepted by AQA Board
2.4 Presentations or papers on academic quality (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	2 Paper published in Quality in Higher Education Invited to give guest lecture on the Global competition in higher education policy making and	2

<i>Measure</i>	<i>2024/25 Projected and current status</i>	<i>2024/25 Planned</i>	<i>2023/24 Projected/Current Status</i>	<i>2023/24 Planned</i>
			quality assessment programme at the National Chengchi University, Taiwan	
2.5 Membership of academic quality related national bodies, committees or working groups (PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	2 JCG NZQA QAF redesign - Quality and QA Advisory Group	2
2.6 Advice or submissions on matters of academic quality (PR, CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	2 Submission to UAG first phase Interviewed by master's students in Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Brussels, Belgium) Also happens on an informal basis, eg advice to CUSPaC on panel composition and self-review processes	2

Goal 3: Deliver value to universities and students in (Cycle 6) academic audit

Description: AQA undertakes regular academic audits of all New Zealand universities using a framework developed by AQA in consultation with the sector and other stakeholders. Academic audits are conducted to a schedule approved by the Board and with the agreement of the universities. From time to time, AQA may be contracted to undertake other forms of audit or review including academic audits of international universities. The quality and timeliness of the work of AQA are overseen by a Board, comprised of a Vice-Chancellor and academic, student and lay members who are appointed by the NZVCC but operate independently of them and of the universities.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
3.1 Recruit Māori and student auditors for Cycle 6 (BP) <i>REVISED MEASURE</i>	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	All panels have at least one member who is Māori and a student or recent graduate	3 Māori Panel members and 3 students available for audit panels
3.2 Deliver auditor training workshops (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Module 2 sessions held: 24 March 26 March 3 May 17 May 2024 Module 3 held 10 May 2024	All auditors appointed to panels have completed auditor training
3.3 Develop advice for Panel members on Te Tiriti, equity and cultural safety within the Aotearoa New Zealand context (RC, TT)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Included in 2 nd Edition of Auditor supplement with further advice in site visit workbook	included in next print of the Supplement for Auditors
3.4 Audit engagement initiated (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	2 first planning meetings held as scheduled	2 Otago – October AUT - November
3.5 Audit Panels appointed (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Lincoln, Otago and AUT panels appointed	Lincoln – Oct Otago – Feb AUT - April
3.6 University Self-reviews submitted (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	3 As scheduled	3 Lincoln – Oct Otago – March AUT - May

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
3.7 Audit Site visits undertaken (BP)	2	2 Otago - July AUT – Sept	3 Completed as scheduled	3 UC - July Waikato – Sept Lincoln – March
3.8 Audit reports published (BP)	2	2 Otago – Oct AUT – Dec	3 UC- Dec Waikato – Dec Lincoln –June	3 UC – Oct Waikato – Dec Lincoln - June
3.9 Feedback on experience of audit sought (BP, TT)	2	2 Otago – Sept AUT - Dec	2 Feedback sought from UC, UW and LU	3 UC – Oct Waikato – Jan Lincoln - June
3.10 One-year follow-up reports received	2	2 Canterbury – Dec Waikato - Dec	3 (Auckland, THW- VUW, Massey)	3 Auckland – Oct THW – March Massey - June

Goal 4: Support quality enhancement in universities

Description: AQA's mission includes assisting universities to facilitate excellent student experience and learning outcomes. AQA undertakes this quality enhancement role in a variety of ways, including by identifying and disseminating national and international good practice in regard to academic quality assurance and quality enhancement, and by facilitating dialogue on quality enhancement initiatives.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
4.1 Deliver AQA events that support enhancement (CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	1 Quality Forum held 16 November 2023	1
4.2 AQA Newsletters (CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	4 (September, December, March, June)	4
4.3 Good practice guides (CE, BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	0 (although guidance for one- year follow-up reports discussed at the quality managers' meeting and included in	1

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
			request to university)	
4.4 Gain or add value from international engagement, demonstrated through practice change, invitations to undertake work internationally, provide advice or contribute to conferences. (PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	3 invited to participate in and facilitate a focus group for the INQAAHE Global Trends II study; invited to consultation on new decision-making body for INQAAHE; invited to participate in HEEACT research workshop	2

Goal 5: Contribute to confidence in the academic quality of universities in Aotearoa New Zealand

Description: Contributing to confidence in the academic quality of universities in Aotearoa New Zealand is part of AQA's purpose. It does this by undertaking academic audits which are fair and robust and communicating the outcomes of those audits in a manner that is accessible to non-specialist audiences. AQA also makes public comment based on evidence when required to do so, or contributes to other comments.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current Status	2023/24 Planned
5.1 Reports on academic audits reports accessible to a non-specialist audience (CE)	2 (contracted)	2	3	3
5.2 Public comment on matters of academic quality (CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Response to media enquiry from Times Higher Ed Australia 9 April 2024	As required
5.3 Engagement with tertiary sector bodies (other than universities) (PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	See also 2.5 2 NZQA – ongoing NZQCF review	2 invitations to contribute or participate

Goal 6: Continue to be a well-performing quality assurance agency

Description: AQA's annual operating grant is funded by the universities collectively. The Board of AQA prepares and recommends a budget to the NZVCC prior to the commencement of each financial year. In doing so, the Board seeks to ensure that the annual grant provides for an adequate level of resources to enable the organisation to achieve its stated objectives for that year, and that the organisation's net asset levels and cash flow are sufficient to sustain its continued operation.

AQA is recognised as being fully aligned with the INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice.

Measure	2024/25 Projected and current status	2024/25 Planned	2023/24 Projected/Current state	2023/24 Planned
6.1 Revise the stakeholder analysis and engagement plan to ensure alignment with Te Tiriti Action Plan (TT, PR)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Will not be achieved	plan revised
6.2 Response to feedback (BP)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Measure 3.3 reflects feedback. Also minor changes made to site visit schedules to allow more time with Māori interviewees.	Changes in response to feedback documented
6.3 Biennial communications survey (CE)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	not scheduled this year	BIENNIAL
6.4 SLA with Universities New Zealand reviewed and renewed (RC)	SLA was reviewed and an amended lease was signed.	Review SLA	Revision to SLA following office move and SLA for 6 months Jul-Dec 2024 signed.	Review completed and lease re-signed
6.5 Annual grant approved (RC)	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Budget for 6 months approved	New funding agreement reached with NZVCC.
6.6 Staffing and resourcing levels reviewed (RC)	A review was undertaken but ceased when decision was taken to close AQA	Review staffing levels	ongoing	Review undertaken
6.7 Amend staff appointment process	NA	No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations	Amendments made but not enacted	Amend AQA's appointment process to include

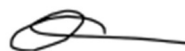
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2024/25 Projected and current status</i>	<i>2024/25 Planned</i>	<i>2023/24 Projected/Current state</i>	<i>2023/24 Planned</i>
				<i>requirements for Te Tiriti and cultural capability</i>
<i>6.8 Budget achieved (RC)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations</i>	<i>Will be better than budget due to salary savings from not filling the second professional position in AQA</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
<i>6.9 Board appointments made</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>No target was set given AQA was ceasing operations</i>	<i>The 2 student positions have been unfilled from December 2023 due to the previous members changing their roles. At least one position will be filled Jul-Dec 2024.</i>	<i>Board positions filled</i>

This report has been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting. The Board believes that the statements contained in this report accurately reflect the overall performance of AQA for the year ended 30 June 2025. The AQA Board was disestablished on 31 December 2024.

For and on behalf of the board



Emeritus Professor John Morrow
 Chair of the Board
 Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities



Rochelle Gribble
 Acting Executive Director
 Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities

Date: 16 October 2025

Date: 16 October 2025

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STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE

	Notes	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
Revenue				
Annual Grant from Universities		0	0	410,000
Audit Fees		54,734	68,100	105,295
Interest Revenue		4,164	4,000	13,935
Consultancy & Sundry Revenue		12	0	700
Total Revenue		58,910	72,100	529,930
Less Expenditure	7	196,585	322,323	539,477
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		-137,675	-250,223	-9,547
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense		0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year		-\$137,675	-\$250,223	-\$9,547
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to:				
Owners of the controlling entity		-137,675	-250,223	-9,547
Minority interest		0	0	0
		-\$137,675	-\$250,223	-\$9,547
Total comprehensive revenue and expense attributable to:				
Owners of the controlling entity		-137,675	-250,223	-9,547
Minority Interest		0	0	0
		-\$137,675	-\$250,223	-\$9,547

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
Equity at start of the year	261,765	261,765	271,312
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year	-137,675	-250,223	-9,547
Total Residual Funds paid to Universities NZ	-124,090	0	0
Equity at end of the year	\$0	\$11,542	\$261,765

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2025**

	Notes	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	8	0	11,497	282,640
GST Refund		0	0	0
Receivables (from exchange transactions)	9	0	0	55,997
Recoverable (from non-exchange transactions)		0	0	0
		0	11,497	338,637
Non-Current Assets				
Intangible Assets	10	0	45	90
Total Assets		\$0	\$11,542	\$338,727
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Payables (from exchange transactions)	11	0	0	73,142
GST		0	0	3,820
Non-exchange liability				
Employee benefit liability	12	0	0	0
Revenue received in advance		0	0	0
		0	0	76,962
Non-Current Liabilities				
Employee benefit liability		0	0	0
Non-exchange liabilities		0	0	0
		0	0	0
Total Liabilities		0	0	76,962
Net Assets		\$0	\$11,542	\$261,765

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (cont.)
AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
Net Assets/Equity				
Accumulated revenue and expense		0	11,542	261,765
Net assets/equity attributable to the owners of the controlling entity		0	11,542	261,765
Minority interest		0	0	0
Total Net Assets/Equity		0	11,542	261,765
Total Net Assets/Equity and Liabilities		\$0	\$11,542	\$261,765

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STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
Notes			
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Proceeds from:			
Interest Received	7,298	7,136	13,723
Annual Grants from Universities	0	68,100	410,000
Audit Fees	90,176	35,442	109,133
Other Receipts	12	0	700
Goods and Services Tax	81	80	1,550
Payments to Suppliers	-235,267	-225,851	-280,450
Payment to Parent organisation of Residual Funds on closure	-124,090	0	0
Payments to Employees	-20,850	-156,050	-288,996
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	-282,640	-271,143	-34,340
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
(Increase)/Decrease in Term Deposits & Portfolio	100,000	100,000	70,000
(Purchase)/Proceeds from Intangible Assets	0	0	0
Net Inflow/(outflow) from Investing Activities	100,000	100,000	70,000
Net Increase (Decrease) In cash and cash equivalent	-182,640	-171,143	35,660
Opening Cash at Beginning of Year	182,640	182,640	146,980
Closing Cash at 30 June	\$0	\$11,497	\$182,640
Represented by:			
Petty Cash	0	0	190
BNZ Bank Accounts (Excluding Term Deposits)	0	11,497	182,450

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Reporting Entity

The reporting entity AQA is a financial subsidiary of the New Zealand Vice-Chancellor's Committee (NZVCC), which is a public benefit entity and was established under the Education Act 1989. As a subsidiary of NZVCC, AQA is required to prepare financial statements in accordance with Section 153-156 of the Crown Entities Act 2004. The AQA was disestablished on 31 December 2024 and these are the final accounts of the Entity.

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 are published by NZVCC and comprise of NZVCC and AQA together referred to as the 'Group'.

2 Basis of Preparation

(a) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of AQA have been prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAPP). They comply with Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS) and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards as appropriate for Tier 2 Public Sector Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Standards, for which all reduced disclosure regime exemptions have been adopted.

AQA has elected to report in accordance with Tier 2 Public Sector PBE Standards to align with the parent entity, NZVCC.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Emeritus Professor John Morrow, Chair of the Board of AQA and Rochelle Gribble, Acting Executive Director of AQA, on 16 October 2025.

(b) Measurement Basis

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except, as indicated below:

- Financial instruments
- Property, Plant & Equipment
- Long-term employee benefits.

(c) Functional and Presentation Currency

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

There has been no change in the functional currency of AQA or any significant foreign operations of AQA during the year.

3 Use of Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

(a) Judgements

Judgements made in applying accounting policies that have had the most significant effects on the amounts recognised in the AQA financial statements include the following:

- Revenue recognition – non-exchange revenue (conditions vs restrictions).

(b) Assumptions and estimation uncertainties

Assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment in the year ending 30 June 2025 include the following:

- Key assumptions underlying determining the recoverable amounts for impairment testing.
- Useful life, recoverable amount, depreciation method and rate.

(c) Changes in accounting estimates

There have been no changes in accounting estimates during the period.

4 Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements and have been applied consistently by the AQA.

(a) Foreign Currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the New Zealand rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. At balance date, foreign monetary assets and liabilities are translated at appropriate closing exchange rates, and gains or losses due to currency fluctuations on these items are included in the Financial Statements.

(b) Revenue

Revenue from Exchange Transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions are those where AQA receives assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value to another entity.

Revenue from exchange transactions is recognised when the amount of revenue is earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

Grant Revenue

Grant revenue was received from the eight universities, through NZVCC, on a six-monthly basis and was applied on a straight-line basis over the financial year in which it relates. No Grant revenue was received in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from services rendered is recognised in surplus or deficit in proportion to the stage-of-completion of the transaction at the reporting date.

Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions

Non-exchange transactions are those where AQA receives an inflow of resources but provides no (or nominal) direct consideration in return.

(c) Employee Benefits

Short-term Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefit liabilities, wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave are recognised when AQA has a legal or constructive obligation to remunerate employees for services provided within 12 months of reporting date, and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled on an undiscounted basis.

(d) Finance income

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as it accrues.

(e) Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when AQA becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date, i.e. the date that AQA commits to purchase or sell the asset.

The AQA derecognises a financial asset when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or are waived, or the AQA has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party; and either:

- i. The AQA has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
- ii. The AQA has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets

Financial assets within the scope of NFP PBE IPSAS 41 Financial Instruments. The classifications of the financial assets are determined at initial recognition. On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost; Fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense (FVOCRE) – debt investment and equity investment; or fair value through surplus or deficit (FVTSD).

The categorisation determines subsequent measurement and whether any resulting revenue and expense is recognised in surplus or deficit or in other comprehensive revenue and expenses. The AQA's financial assets are classified as either financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit or amortised cost. Financial assets include: cash and cash equivalents, trade debtors and other receivables and term deposits.

All financial assets except for those at fair value through surplus or deficit are subject to review for impairment at least at each reporting date.

A debt investment is measured at FVOCRE if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTSD:

- iii. it is held within a management model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets; and
- iv. its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or FVOCRE as described above are measured at FVTSD. This includes all derivative financial assets. On initial recognition, the AQA may irrevocably designate a financial asset that otherwise meets the requirements to be measured at amortised cost or at FVOCRE as at FVTSD if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise.

Financial liabilities

The AQA's financial liabilities include trade and other payables (excluding GST, PAYE and employee entitlements).

All financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value (plus transaction cost for financial liabilities not at fair value through surplus or deficit). They are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for financial liabilities at fair value through surplus or deficit in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense. Financial liabilities are derecognised if AQA's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(f) Impairment of Non-Derivative Financial Assets

AQA assesses at each reporting date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset is considered to be impaired if objective evidence indicates that one or more events have had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset. Individually significant financial assets are tested for impairment on an individual basis. The remaining financial assets are assessed collectively in groups that share similar characteristics. All impairment losses are recognised in surplus or deficit and reflected in an allowance account against receivables. An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses directly reduce the carrying amount of assets and are recognised in surplus or deficit.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment

Recognition and Measurement

Property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost. Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Subsequent costs are added to the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment when the cost is incurred if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied with the item will flow to the entity and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other costs are recognised in surplus or deficit as an expense when incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all items of property, plant and equipment so as to write off their carrying value over their expected useful economic lives. It is provided at the following rates:

Computers and Printers	48%SL
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	16.2%SL

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate

(h) Intangible Asset

Recognition and Measurement

Intangible Assets are initially recognised at cost. The Intangible Asset-Website Upgrade is recorded at cost less accumulated amortisation. Subsequent costs are added to the carrying amount of the website upgrade, when the cost is incurred if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied with the item will flow to the entity and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other costs are recognised in surplus or deficit as an expense when incurred.

Amortisation

Amortisation is provided on website upgrade as the practice of reducing the value of assets to reflect their reduced economic worth over time. It is provided at the following rates:

Website Upgrade	50% DV
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(i) Budget

The budget figures for AQA were considered and reviewed by the AQA Board at their 23 April 2024 meeting. No Annual Grant funding was approved by the Vice-Chancellors at their 13 June 2024 meeting.

The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted by AQA for the preparation of the financial statements.

(j) Goods and Services Tax

The financial statements are exclusive of GST except for Trade Payables and Trade Receivables which are GST inclusive.

(k) Taxation

AQA is a subsidiary of NZVCC which is a statutory body and registered with the Charities Services under the Charities Act 2005. AQA has been established with the same purposes as NZVCC. AQA's purpose is to manage its finances and conduct its activities for the benefit of NZVCC, which has charitable status, and AQA is therefore exempt from income tax.

(l) Statement of Cash Flows

The statement of cash flows has been prepared using the direct approach method.

Cash includes cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks.

Operating activities includes cash received from all revenue sources of AQA including annual university grants, cost-recovery of New Zealand university academic audit costs, audits and reviews of non-New Zealand institutions, consultancy, conference fees and interest earned.

5 Adjustments arising on transition to the new PBE accounting standards

There have been no reclassifications on the face of the financial statements in adopting the new PBE accounting standards.

6 Revenue

All AQA revenue for the year ended 30 June 2025 was earned from Rendering of Services, Interest and exchange transactions.

7 Expenses

	AQA Actual 2024/2025	AQA Budget 2024/2025	AQA Actual 2023/2024
ACC Levy	277	650	526
Accountancy	0	3,250	3,500
Amortisation of Intangibles	0	45	91
Audit Fee (Financial Audit)	(79)	10,210	11,861
Bank Fee	156	350	156
Computer Maintenance and Training	7,903	7,063	15,211
Conference Fees	0	0	1,361
Consultancy/Other Honoraria	83,875	9,000	12,788
Honoraria - AQA Chairman & Board	20,171	21,275	37,610
Honoraria - Audit	35,000	55,300	83,300
Insurance	1,825	7,930	5,728
Interest expenses	0	0	12
IRD Penalties	19	0	0
Koha/Gifts	0	0	500
Loss on disposal	90	0	0
Meeting Costs	374	200	916
NZVCC Staff Services	3,118	4,300	7,068
Occupancy Rent	5,525	5,695	15,460
Office Expenses, Administration and General	5,483	12,000	7,226
Recruitment Costs	0	1,000	233
Staff Development (exc. Travel)	0	0	3,906
Salaries	0	130,000	266,441
Superannuation Contributions (Including KiwiSaver)	0	5,200	10,498
Temporary Staff costs	0	2,600	8,570
Subscriptions	616	3,000	2,455
Telephone and Tolls	130	475	336
Travel and Accommodation			
- New Zealand Travel	938	0	4,110
- International Travel	0	0	2,333
- Board Travel	2,626	3,600	6,497
- Audit Travel	13,703	22,200	15,767
- Accommodation and meals	14,835	16,980	15,017
	\$196,585	\$322,323	\$539,477

8 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Bank of New Zealand		
Current Account (0.0%)	0	26,389
Call Account (0.0%)	0	156,061
	0	182,450
Petty Cash	0	190
	0	182,640
BNZ Short-term Deposits (0%)	0	100,000
	0	282,640

9 Receivables – Exchange Transactions

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Sundry Debtors	0	40,758
Prepaid Expenses	0	12,104
Accrued Interest	0	3,135
	0	55,997

10 Intangible Assets

	AQA Total \$
Cost of valuation Balance at 1 July 2023	13,920
Additions	0
Disposals	0
Balance at 30 June 2024	13,920
Balance at 1 July 2024	13,920
Additions	0
Disposals	-90
Balance at 30 June 2025	13,830
Accumulated Amortisation and Impairment Losses	
Balance at 1 July 2023	13,739
Amortisation expense	91
Elimination on disposal	0
Balance at 30 June 2024	13,830
Balance at 1 July 2024	13,830
Amortisation expense	0
elimination on disposal	-90
Balance at 30 June 2025	13,740
Carrying amounts	
At 1 July 2023	91
At 1 July 2024	90
At 30 June 2025/1 July 2025	0
	AQA Total \$
Cost of valuation Balance at 1 July 2023	13,92
Additions	0
Disposals	0
Balance at 30 June 2024	13,92
Balance at 1 July 2024	13,92
Additions	0
Disposals	-90

Balance at 30 June 2025	13,83 0
Accumulated Amortisation and Impairment Losses	
Balance at 1 July 2023	13,73 9
Amortisation expense	91
Elimination on disposal	0
	13,83
Balance at 30 June 2024	0
Balance at 1 July 2024	13,83 0
Amortisation expense	0
elimination on disposal	-90
	13,74
Balance at 30 June 2025	0
Carrying amounts	
At 1 July 2023	91
At 1 July 2024	90
At 30 June 2025/1 July 2025	0

The related amortisation expense has been disclosed separately in Note 4h.

11 Payables – Exchange Transactions

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Accounts Payable	0	34,047
Accruals	0	39,008
BNZ Credit Card	0	87
Income in Advance	0	0
	0	73,142

12 Employee Benefit Liability

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Short term Employee Entitlements		
Salary Accrual	0	0
Employer Superannuation		
Contribution on Salary Accrual	0	0
Annual Leave	0	0
Employer Superannuation		
Contribution on Annual Leave	0	0
Total short-term Employee Entitlements	0	0
Total long-term Employee Entitlements		
Total Employee Entitlements	0	0

13 Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in each of the NZ IAS 39 categories are as follows:

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Loans and Receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	0	282,640
Trade and Other receivables	0	55,997
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade and Other payables	0	73,142

Credit Risk

Financial instruments which potentially subject AQA up to credit risk principally consist of Cash and Cash Equivalents and Trade and Other Receivables.

The maximum exposures to credit risk at balance date were:

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Cash on Hand	0	190
Bank Balances	0	182,450
Accounts Receivable	0	55,997
Bank Term Deposits	0	100,000
BNZ Credit Cards (Credit limit as at 30 June)	0	16,000
	0	354,637

The above maximum exposures are net of any recognised provision for losses on these financial instruments. No collateral is held on the above amounts.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

AQA is not exposed to any concentration of credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk

AQA is primarily a short-term investor in on-call funds and term deposits not exceeding 180 days. The interest rate risk exposure on deposits pertains to fluctuations in market rates of interest.

Foreign Exchange Risk

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the New Zealand rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. At balance date, foreign monetary assets and liabilities are translated at appropriate closing exchange rates, and gains or losses due to currency fluctuations on these items are included in the Financial Statements.

14 Related Party Transactions

NZVCC is a related party by virtue of the fact that the NZVCC has the capacity to appoint all members of the governing body of AQA.

During the year NZVCC received \$0 (2024: \$410,000) of University Annual Grants on behalf of the AQA.

NZVCC provided serviced offices and provided other administrative services to AQA during the year and was paid \$15,706 (2024: \$36,654) for those services.

AQA's Board includes and pays an honorarium to a member of the Vice-Chancellors' Committee (see note 15) or their employing university.

15 Employee and Board Remuneration

The Executive Director resigned as at 30 June 2024, no remuneration and benefits were paid in the 2025 year (2024: \$230,000-\$240,000). An acting Executive Director was appointed and funded by NZVCC.

The following members of the Board were paid honoraria for the 1 July 2024-31 December 2024 period.

		AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Emeritus Professor John Morrow	Chair 1.7.2021-31.12.2024	9,109	18,218
D Haines (paid to NKU)	Deputy Chair 1.1.2022-31.12.2024,		
	Member 1.7.2020-31.12.2021	2,277	4,554
Deborah Willis	Deputy Chair 1.7.2020-31.12.2021,		
	Member 1.1.2022-31.12.2024	1,562	3,124
Dr John Egan	Member 1.1.2021-31.12.2024	1,562	3,124
Dr Sharon Toi	Member 1.1.2022-31.12.2024	1,822	3,644
Rosa Hibbert-Schooner	Member 1.7.2022-31.12.2023	0	1,822
Professor Grant Edwards	Member 1.7.2023-31.12.2024	2,277	3,124
Alan Shaker (NZUSA)	Member 1.7.2024-31.12.2024	1,562	0
		20,171	37,610

16 Commitments and contingencies

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2025. (2024: Nil)

There were no operating, finance or capital commitments as at 30 June 2025. (2024: Nil)

17 Events after reporting date

No material events occurred after 30 June 2025.

18 Auditors' Remuneration

The auditor of AQA is BDO Wellington on behalf of the Auditor-General.

	AQA 2025 \$	AQA 2024 \$
Audit of the Financial Statements	0	10,665
Maximum Disbursements	0	84
Office Audit General overhead charged	0	1,112
	0	11,861

19 Covid 19 impact

COVID-19 impacts have reduced to minimal impact on normal operations. Some changes in practice have been retained as business as usual.