National Learners' Records Database (NLRD)

August 2014
What is the NLRD?

An integrated information system to facilitate the management of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) - the first such system in the world.

In operation since 1999 and developed further in phases, to reflect the business rules of the NQF.

**Main functions:**

- To provide policy makers with comprehensive information to enable informed decision-making.
- To provide learners and employers with proof of qualifications obtained.
- To provide information that assists with career development and advice.
NLRD Form and Function

Key activities

Inputs

National Learners' Records System (NLRD)

Outputs

Macro

System support

Micro

Qualifications & Part Qualifications

Main Streams

Learners & achievements
Information provided by the NLRD

- Qualifications and Part Qualifications (including Unit standards) registered on the NQF
- NQF Sub-frameworks and their related Quality Councils
- NQF Organising Fields and Subfields
- Recognised Professional Bodies and Registered Professional Designations
- Accredited Quality assuring bodies and their accredited Providers
- Registered Assessors
- Individual learners and their achievements
NLRD Stream 1:
Qualifications and Unit Standards

Qualification

Unit Standard
- Outcome 1
- Outcome 2
- Outcome 3
Data Flow to the NLRD (Qualifications and Part Qualifications)

Quality Councils

- QCTO
- CHE
- Umalusi

SAQA – Evaluate (DRR)

SAQA – Capture onto NLRD
Access to Information on Qualifications, Part Qualifications, Professional Bodies and Designations

- Searchable Databases on the SAQA website
Searching for Qualifications

www.saqa.org.za
Qualifications and Part Qualifications

A guide on searching the database of qualifications and unit standards | Re-registration | ‘N’ part-qualifications

Summary lists of all registered qualifications and unit standards - June 2014 [Zipped Excel].
(These lists are updated approximately every two months, at the same time as the finalisation of each Board Meeting’s registrations.)

All summaries and searchable databases are extracted from the National Learners’ Records Database.

There are eight searchable databases of qualifications and part qualifications on the SAQA website:

- **All qualifications and unit standards**
  
  Search for all qualifications and unit standards, no matter what their status

- **Registered qualifications and unit standards**
  
  Qualifications and unit standards that are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

- **Qualifications and unit standards that have passed their Registration End Date**
  
  Qualifications and unit standards that were registered on the NQF and have subsequently expired
  (this includes qualifications and unit standards that have been replaced by others)

- **Qualifications and unit standards for public comment**
  
  Qualifications and unit standards that have been issued for public comment
  (each qualification or standard shows, in its Notes, the last date allowed for public comment)
NLRD Stream 2:

Learners and their Achievements
Data Flow to the NLRD (Learner Achievements)

Providers

Quality assuring body
Quality assuring body
Quality assuring body

SAQA – Load onto NLRD
HEQCIS

- The Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) needs an information system for Private Higher Education

- The NLRD has a contract with the CHE, to provide this service

- Name of the system: HEQCIS
HEQCIS

> 100 Private Higher Providers

CHE’s rented space at SAQA

SAQA’s own space
Access to Information on Learners and their Achievements

- Publications
- Reports
- Customised Analyses
- Verifications
Largest average annual growth: Business and Management Sciences
Lowest average annual growth: Social Sciences and Humanities
Second lowest: Engineering Sciences and Technology
Sample: Trends in Work-Related Qualifications and Part Qualifications: Learner Achievements by Population Group and Gender
Items being phased in under the NQF Act

- Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)

- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):
  - The NLRD already records which achievements are done via RPL, and SAQA is doing further work and research on RPL
General Comments on the Robustness of the NLRD as a System

- Has an excellent Data-Model
- Was rebuilt after a devastating crash (2004)

Former Challenges now Solved:
- Data volume
- Data integrity
- Data submissions

Solutions:
- Data cleaning projects
- Resources and assistance for quality assuring bodies
Conclusion

The NLRD is one of South Africa’s key resources for:

- Tracking the paths of individual learners
- Informing policy-making and decision-making in education and training, and labour market analysis
- Providing information that assists with career development and advice