

# KEEPING BCATS RELEVANT



**WAIHANGA ARA RAU**  
Construction and  
Infrastructure  
Workforce Development Council

## BCATS REVIEW COMPLETED

We have completed a review of the Building Construction and Allied Trade Skills (BCATS) qualifications to ensure they are fit for purpose.

- ✓ New Zealand Certificate in Building, Construction, and Allied Trades Skills (Level 1) [Ref: 3843]
- ✓ New Zealand Certificate in Building, Construction, and Allied Trades Skills (Level 2) [Ref: 3844]
- ✓ New Zealand Certificate in Building, Construction, and Allied Trades Skills (Level 3) [Ref: 3845]

At the same time, we **developed a suite of new skill standards** better suited to the needs of ākonga (learners) and the BCATS industries.

## BCATS GRADED

**All new skill standards** will include **Achieved/Merit/Excellence grades** to differentiate ākonga level of performance and achievement and help grow parity of esteem between this vocational pathway and academic/University Entrance (UE) subjects. This will also enable the standards to contribute to NCEA Merit and Excellence endorsement at certificate level, which may have a significant impact on future training and career prospects.

## SUPPORTING ASSESSMENT

Waihanga Ara Rau has **supporting assessment commentary** available for each skill standard to provide further descriptors and examples that can be used to inform assessor grading (Achieved, Merit, Excellence). The **Programme Guidance** also includes key information to understand changes in the move from unit standards to skill standards for BCATS.

Providers and schools can now start planning to move their programmes/courses to include the new suite of skill standards. These standards are included in the **Construction and Infrastructure Vocational Pathways** for 2026. The expiring unit standards can continue to be used in programmes until they expire on 31 December 2027.

## NEW RESOURCES

BCITO is developing BCATS resources which will be easily accessible to teachers, ākonga and home educators and will be publicly available on the BConstructive website and through myBCITO for registered teachers and ākonga. BCITO is also designing project diaries to support evidence collection and teacher resources that will work in conjunction with the programme guidance document.

The resources have been designed to provide practical support for both ākonga and teachers, incorporating the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). They also support holistic assessment to an excellence level.

BCITO and Waihanga Ara Rau are working on a pilot of the first BCATS skill standard grades, including supporting assessment commentary, and the associated Level 1 (Joints) assessment and resources. The information collected from the pilot will inform further resource development for the graded skill standards.