



# Navigating the education obligations Choosing a solution that's right for you

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Financial Services Council Growing and protecting the wealth of New Zealanders

## Agenda

- Recap: The basics
- Competency transitional relief
- Qualification or equivalency
- Qualification pathways
- CPD: What is required and how to achieve







### Recap: The basic requirements

#### **The law: FMCA 2013:**

- > Duty to meet standards of competence, knowledge, and skill (s431I)
- > Duty to exercise care, diligence, and skill (s431L)
- > Duty to comply with code of conduct (s431M)

#### **Code of Professional Conduct for Financial Advice Services:**

> Standards 6-9







### Recap: The Code

#### PART 1: ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR, CONDUCT, AND CLIENT CARE

- Treat clients fairly
- 2. Act with integrity
- 3. Give financial advice that is suitable
- 4. Ensure that the client understands the financial advice
- 5. Protect client information

#### PART 2: COMPETENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILL

- 6. Have general competence, knowledge, and skill
- Have particular competence, knowledge, and skill for designing an investment plan
- 8. Have particular competence, knowledge, and skill for product advice
- 9. Keep competence, knowledge, and skill up-to-date



### Competency transitional relief

### Applies to:

- Those on FSPR before 15 March
- The type of advice being provided BEFORE 15 March

How does it work?

Must be compliant with legs, regs, and Part 1 of the Code from 15 March 2021





## Qualification or equivalency

#### Qualification

- Stays with the adviser (a pro AND a con)
- Provides certainty of education standard
- Cheaper option for most FAPs
- Easy to bolt on competencies as you expand your advice services
- Easier for onboarding new advisers
- Provides the base for future higher quals
- New staff may need to start from scratch

#### **Equivalency**

- Role specific not transportable, but supports better targeting of training
- Reduces breadth of study
- Training more focussed on the role
- Cheaper if have large number of advisers
- Difficult if only onboarding small numbers during the year
- Need to keep content up to date

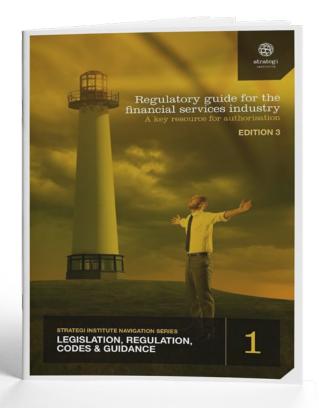
#### **Key takeout's**

- Getting NZCFS5(V2) is the most straightforward solution for most FAPs and FAs
- Equivalency works for large FAPs with robust processes
- Quality of education provider and/or equivalency verifier is important
- Don't forget FAP-level competency





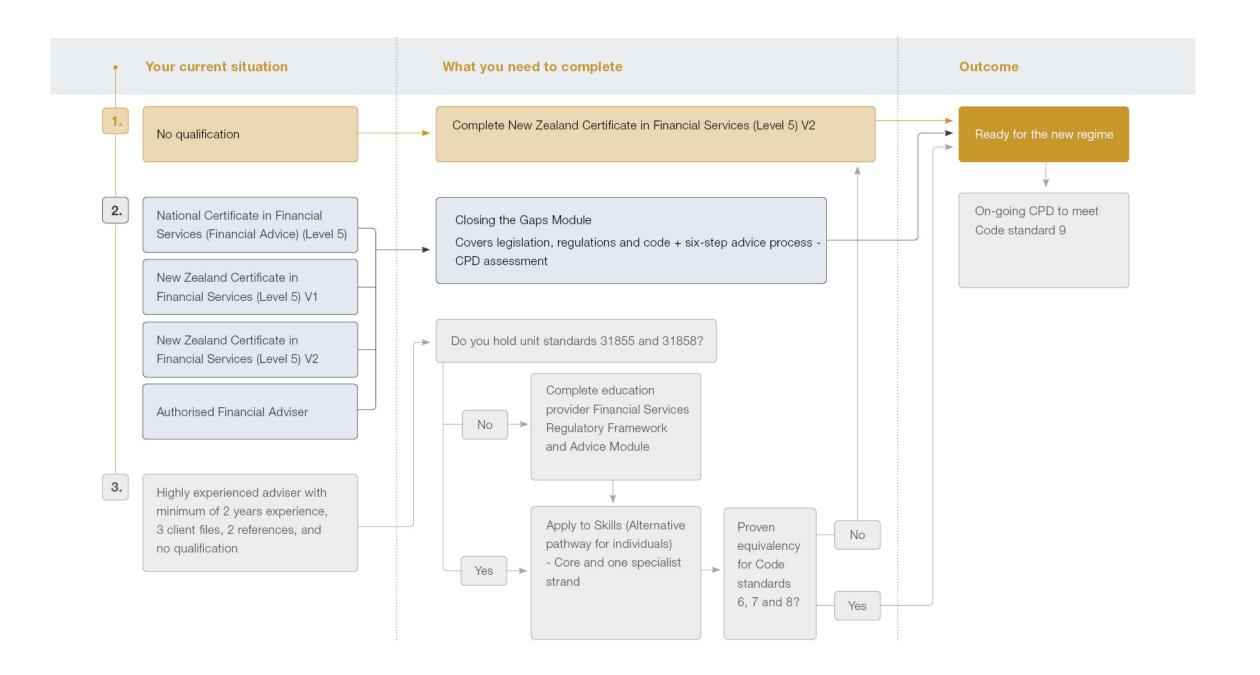
# Qualification pathways











### What do new advisers need to do?

- Get NZCFS5(V2) BEFORE providing regulated financial advice (Core strand and relevant speciality)
- Get investment strand if designing an investment plan
- Get additional specialist strands if providing advice in additional fields
- Build and maintain a professional development plan and undertake relevant CPD

How new advisers can generate revenue before obtaining the NZCFS5(V2) - introducing the 'supervision plan'

The above will also apply to those on the FSPR before 15 March 2021 and were not an AFA, do not have a relevant level 5 qualification, and are not in a FAP that has built capabilities equivalent to the qualification outcomes of NZCFS5(V2)





### CPD requirements

- Code standard 9
- Applies at a FAP, FA & NR level
- Annual Professional Development Plan & CPD log
- Should be holistic
- Forward looking
- Transitional relief?
- Closing the Gaps is a logical course right now







### Proof of CPD

#### **Tips**

- Draft Professional Development Plan (PDP) same time each year, locate and book training in your diary
- Identify what makes sense to go into your PDP make sure your PDP is relevant to what you do
- Your PDP must consider both financial advice competency and regulatory framework
- Maintain a CPD log, and focus on CPD that matches your PDP
- If courses don't provide certificates take notes and enter into your CPD log, and make sure what you have done is verifiable
- Capture reflections on what you have learned in your CPD log to maximise value
- Build checking of CPD log into your compliance plan (record you have checked it)
- Regularly check your CPD log against your PDP
- Refresh and update your PDP as soon as you identify a learning need
- Use an industry wide online solution eg: Radar- one stop shop





### Summary

- For most people, NZCFS5(V2) is the cheapest and easiest way to go
- Transition period does not apply to compliance with legs, regs, and
   Part 1 of the Code
- Need to close any gap between current qualification outcomes and those of the new level 5
- Closing the gaps course is a logical first step for many
- CPD is an essential component of care, diligence and skill
- Document all CPD





