Pathways and Possibilities
Exploring the link between qualifications and industries

Introduction
• An important role of tertiary education—ensuring students have skills needed for future careers
  • Assumes a relationship between what people learn through study, and the skills that they will need in their chosen occupation or industry
  • This relationship is not always clear and the strength of the relationship varies considerably

Research Method
• Draws on two questions from 2006 NZ Census
  • Highest qualification
  • Place of work
• Field of study (NZSCED) and industry (ANZSIC) drawn from answers to these questions
• Analysis includes workers that have an identifiable post-school qualification—44% of workers aged 15 and over

Industry point of view
• Qualifications were classified into one of four groups based on relevance to each industry:
  • Core relevance—skills of primary importance to the industry.
  • Related—skills which are in some way related
  • Generic—skills which are not specific to the industry
  • Unrelated—skills which are not directly related to the industry

Workers point of view
• Comparing industry and field of study creates a picture of where people with particular qualifications are likely to work
• Can determine common career paths for people studying towards qualifications
• Useful info for people considering education or training or where to use existing qualifications
Conclusions

- Industries with a close link to quals tend to be regulated, vocational, have ed & training history
- Other industries tend to have weaker links or links to more generic fields
- Implications for:
  - Firms
  - Workers
  - Future workers

Further information

- Information about industry training in NZ is available on the ITF website:
  www.itf.org.nz
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