AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 8 CRITERIA – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PURPOSE	The Graduate Certificate qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning.	
KNOWLEDGE	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area	Graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care will demonstrate: • specialised knowledge and understanding of the discourses, debates and issues in early childhood education and care • knowledge of the scope of education and care that incorporates a global perspective and an understanding of its points of intersection with related disciplines and society.
SKILLS	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have: • cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems • cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas • specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice • communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts • communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences	Graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care will have: • cognitive skill to reflect critically on the nexus between theory and professional practice • cognitive and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level • communication skills including speaking, reading, writing, listening, interpretative and advocacy skills to communicate complex early educational and care ideas to diverse social and cultural groups • communication skills to work collaboratively with others in early education and care or related fields.

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts • to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts • with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters	Graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care will have: • a highly developed capacity for independent, autonomous, and self-directed learning • an advanced capacity to synthesise and apply theoretical understandings to inform their professional practice • the capability to work at a high level in the application of theory and practice to complex problem solving, current debates and/or professional settings • interpreted and pursued further learning priorities for continuing professional development including engagement with local and global issues.