

2 October 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for Education

Tēnā koe Minister

On behalf of the TEC Board we are pleased to present to you TEC's ITP Roadmap 2020 advice:
Tū Kahikatea, the Strength of a Network.

This briefing and its appendices outline our advice on how structural changes at ITPs can help create an ITP network for New Zealand in which:

- **ITP education is sought and esteemed** by a wide range of New Zealanders and international students as a high-quality and accessible means of acquiring skills to succeed in work and life;
- **each individual ITP** is strongly focused on meeting the current and changing needs of diverse learners, employers and communities in its region, including the evolving need for lifelong learning opportunities for adults in work; and
- **the ITPs collectively create** a network that is more than the sum of its parts, sharing programmes, services, expertise and resources to improve quality and reduce costs, and making strategic collective investments as required to realise new opportunities or adapt to changing demands.

As noted in the briefing, this network needs to be part of a **broader education system** that delivers for all New Zealanders, from ECE through compulsory schooling, tertiary education and lifelong learning. To maximise interest in and benefit from tertiary education and training, students need access to **good guidance** from an early age, but also at all ages, about their options and choices; and institutions and delivery approaches need to be **shaped around their needs**. The ability of the vocational part of the tertiary education system to meet the needs of **adult learners** will become increasingly important as automation of labour becomes widespread.

The attached briefing and its appendices are the outcome of six months of intensive work with the ITP sector and its stakeholders. During these discussions we received significant feedback on and insight into the need for change in the vocational education and training system, and the broader education system, beyond the structural focus of the Roadmap project. The key concerns we heard will be familiar to you:

- a compulsory system that does a poor job of championing the aspirations of many learners and helping them find pathways to successful tertiary study;
- a lack of flexibility to enable tertiary education providers to adapt to different learners' needs;
- a "one size fits all" approach to funding;



- a flawed approach to performance measurement; and
- a proliferation of pathways, initiatives and “brands”, especially in the secondary-tertiary and vocational space.

We know you have an ambitious work programme in place to explore and address these issues via progressive change throughout the education landscape. We are pleased to support and contribute to this in any way we can. Our position between education, economic and social systems, our responsibility for the Careers System Strategy, and our closeness to the sector give us a unique “big picture” perspective, firmly grounded in operational reality. Our relatively small size and forward-looking, can-do organisational culture mean we are nimble on our feet and view changes as opportunities.

We particularly value your willingness for education agencies to work in genuine partnership with sector participants to define and design solutions for problems in the education system. The ITP Roadmap 2020 project has been characterised by intensive sector engagement and co-design, and this has added a great deal to the quality of the analysis. Along with your Education Conversation, we believe our approach to the Roadmap has also created a strong foundation for further work between the Government and ITPs to drive enduring change in the sector, to the good of learners, employers and communities across New Zealand.

We trust you find the attached advice useful and look forward to discussing it with you at your earliest convenience, and to continuing with this important work.

Ngā mihi



Nigel Gould
Chair



Tim Fowler
Chief Executive



We ensure New Zealand's future success.