

11 December 2018

Tēnā koutou

Update on the reforms of vocational education

We would like to update you on the Government's review of the vocational education and training (VET) system and the Institute of Technology and Polytechnic (ITP) Roadmap 2020. We thank you for your input on this work to date.

Both of these projects are now being brought together as one and the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) will have joint responsibility for the work from now on. In light of the interdependencies between the two projects, it makes sense to bring them together. This will also ensure that further consultation considers the full range of issues relating to vocational education policy and delivery of services to learners and industry.

The Ministry will continue to lead the funding and regulatory strands of the project, and TEC will lead any structural change of the ITP network – and we will work very closely together. We are referring to this collective work programme as the Reform of Vocational Education. The group governing this work is chaired by Tim Fowler.

We received valuable input from the sector and its stakeholders through our initial discussions on the VET review and substantial engagement on the ITP Roadmap. We heard about the complex nature of the sector and the issues that tertiary education organisations are currently facing.

The Government is currently considering these issues in detail and expects to consult publicly on the next stages of the work early in 2019.

The Minister has conveyed his appreciation for the feedback provided to date. He has made it clear that he wants us to continue working closely with you once proposals for change are released for consultation next year.

Further engagement in 2019

Any changes to the sector will need to support the Government's vision of thriving regional development, supported by a strong, unified vocational education system that is sustainable and fit for the future of work, delivering what learners, employers and communities need to be successful.

Once the Government has determined the range of proposals it wants to consult on, we will work with you to test these, alongside wider public consultation. We will provide materials and opportunities for a wide variety of stakeholders to provide feedback on proposals.

As we head into the New Year, it's business as usual for tertiary education organisations enrolling learners and planning for 2019. We know this will be a busy time for you, and we want to acknowledge the uncertainty this work programme brings for those of you leading or governing organisations – particularly the ITPs. Please carry on with the important work you're doing, and we will keep you all informed so you are well aware of the next steps as they come up.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with us through the existing work stream email addresses: itproadmap@tec.govt.nz or [vet.review@education.govt.nz](mailto:veter.review@education.govt.nz).

Ngā manaakitanga



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