

# Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education  
Minister for Women  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



Jenn Bestwick  
Chair  
Tertiary Education Commission  
PO Box 27-048  
Wellington 6141

22 August 2023

Dear Jenn,

## **Delegation to implement the Tūwhitia – Accelerating Learner Success Fund**

I am writing to advise you of my delegation to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to fund initiatives that are focused on accelerating learner success in tertiary education and training. The new fund will be called the 'Tūwhitia – Accelerating Learner Success Fund'.

The purpose of the fund is to make targeted investments in learner success initiatives to:

- increase the likelihood of TEOs successfully implementing such initiatives;
- accelerate TEO initiatives so that more learners benefit earlier;
- broaden the scope of learner success initiatives so that more learners can be positively impacted; and
- reduce cost barriers for TEOs.

I expect the TEC to use this funding to co-invest with TEOs in learner success initiatives within the tertiary education sector.

To be eligible to apply for this funding, a TEO must:

1. be a tertiary education organisation as defined in section 10(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020; and
2. have a current Learner Success Plan.

I do not expect that every eligible TEO will receive funding. The TEC may determine and publish additional eligibility criteria in order to target investment towards the parts of the tertiary education sector where the greatest system-level gains can be made for underserved learners.

A TEO that meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to apply for funding must provide an application to the TEC. I expect the TEC to develop an appropriate application process. The TEC may ask for any information it deems necessary to assess the need of each TEO, and the relative value that may be gained from funding each TEO in terms of the purpose of this fund and assessment criteria.

The TEC must develop a process to select TEOs whose learner success initiatives could best benefit from specific investment. The TEC must determine and publish assessment criteria, aligned with the purpose and focus of the fund, to assess applications from eligible TEOs.

In developing its assessment criteria, TEC should consider the following:

- a. **impact of the investment** – the extent to which the initiatives proposed will contribute toward the purpose of the fund and have an impact for learners on a whole-of-system level;
- b. **system equity gains** – the initiatives proposed will focus on underserved learners and will contribute to system-level equity gains;
- c. **cultural impact** – the initiatives proposed are culturally conscious and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi as part of removing barriers for learners;
- d. **accelerating learner success** – the TEO must demonstrate the ability to use the funding to accelerate progress in achieving equity of education outcomes;
- e. **capacity for co-investment** – the TEO must have the resources to co-invest in the initiatives it proposes; and
- f. **alignment with Learner Success Plan** – the extent to which the initiatives for which the TEO proposes to use the funding are consistent with the TEO's Learner Success Plan.

The Tūwhitia – Accelerating Learner Success Fund has been established within the existing 'Access to and Success in Tertiary Education' category of the Tertiary Tuition and Training Multi-Category Appropriation (the MCA) for this purpose. Funding can be transferred to this fund from funds across the MCA that have typically been used for additional volume-based funding for TEOs. Up to \$5 million can be transferred in the 2023/2024 financial year, and up to \$10 million in each subsequent financial year.

I delegate to the Tertiary Education Commission, under section 409(1)(j) of the Education and Training Act 2020, authority to pay funding:

- to TEOs that meet the eligibility criteria;
- whose applications best meet the assessment criteria; and
- of up to \$5 million in the 2023/2024 financial year, and up to \$10 million in each subsequent year.

I expect the TEC to develop and publish conditions for TEOs that receive this funding, including conditions that:

- funding may be recovered from a TEO if the TEO does not comply with funding conditions imposed by the TEC;
- a TEO must publish and share information about the initiatives for which it receives funding, including progress updates and outputs that could be implemented or scaled up in other TEOs; and
- TEOs must give the TEC any information that it requests, including information regarding a TEO's financial status.

I expect the TEC to:

- report to me regularly about the initiatives for which the TEC has provided funding;
- publish information on initiatives it has funded;
- disseminate lessons learned from the initiatives funded to improve outcomes for the tertiary education system; and
- report on this fund in its Annual Report.

I will review the effectiveness of this fund for achieving learner success and equity outcomes within three years of its implementation, and consider whether any changes to the policy or its implementation are warranted.

This delegation takes effect from the date of this letter until it is varied or revoked. The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions as required to give effect to this delegation outside of those dates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Tinetti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "T".

Hon Jan Tinetti  
Minister of Education