



2 May 2020

Jenn Bestwick
Chair
Tertiary Education Commission
PO Box 27-048
Wellington 6141
By email: Chair@TEC.govt.nz

Dear Jenn

Delegation to fund tertiary education organisations and transitional industry training organisations to support learners to access technology-enabled tertiary education and training

I am writing to advise you of a delegation to fund initiatives to improve access to technology-enabled tertiary education and training. The purpose of the funding is to help tertiary education organisations (TEOs) and transitional industry training organisations (TITOs) support learners to continue to access tertiary education and training that has been disrupted due to COVID-19.

In particular, the funding must be used by TEOs and TITOs to enable learners to continue to access tertiary education and training that has been disrupted due to COVID-19 by supporting access to:

- suitable devices and related support; and/or
- adequate internet connections and related support; and/or
- other support that assists learners in engaging in technology-enabled tertiary education.

The terms 'related support' and 'other support' include supporting TEO and TITO capability to deliver quality online provision providing it relates to supporting learners to continue to access tertiary education.

The TEC must design processes for allocating funding to TEOs and TITOs. The TEC must collaborate with the NZIST on the most efficient way of supporting students at its subsidiary organisations. The TEC must also ensure transparent reporting on how the funding is allocated by the TEC and used by TEOs and TITOs.

TEOs and TITOs receiving funding from the following funds may access this funding:

- Student Achievement Component – Provision at Level 3 and above on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework
- Student Achievement Component – Levels 1 and 2
- Industry Training Fund

- Youth Guarantee (excluding Trades Academies)
- Literacy and Numeracy (all funds)
- Specialised English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Those providers being funded via section 321 of the Education Act 1989.

This funding will utilise funding appropriated within Vote Tertiary Tuition and Training Multi Category Appropriation (MCA) that is under-utilised in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. Based on current forecasts of this appropriation, up to \$20 million can be utilised for these initiatives. If there is a risk of exceeding the overall amount of expenditure appropriated for that MCA, I expect that the TEC will draw on funding held on its balance sheet to manage that risk.

I delegate to the Tertiary Education Commission (under section 159F(1)(e) of the Education Act 1989) authority to pay funding:

- to TEOs and TITOs that identify vulnerable learners that are most in need of additional support to access technology-enabled tertiary education;
- to TEOs and TITOs eligible for the funds specified above;
- of up to \$20 million in total in the 2020 calendar year.

I expect the TEC to:

- ensure funding is prioritised towards vulnerable learners and the technological and skills barriers they may face in accessing technology-enabled tertiary education
- report to me regularly on the TEOs and TITOs it has funded and learners that are being supported, and the extent to which those learners have remained engaged in tertiary education;
- publish information on the TEOs and TITOs it has funded, including a public list that itemises each TEO or TITO that is funded, and for each TEO or TITO, the amount of funding, nature of supports provided, timeframe, and number of learners it has supported.
- seek to align with the parallel work organised through the Ministry of Education for the compulsory sector, to ensure efficient use of resources.

This delegation applies from the date of this letter until 31 December 2020.

The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions as required to give effect to this delegation outside of those dates.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education