



23 June 2020

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

Dear Jenn

## **Delegation to provide funding for COVID-19 response projects led by Transitional Industry Training Organisations and Workforce Development Councils**

I am writing to advise you of my delegation of responsibility to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) for administering funding for COVID-19 response projects led by Transitional Industry Training Organisations (TITOs) and Workforce Development Councils (WDCs).

### *Purpose of the funding*

The purpose of this funding is to support TITOs and WDCs to lead COVID-19 response projects to support the recovery of industry from the impact of COVID-19.

### *Use of the funding*

This funding is to be used by TITOs and WDCs to support the recovery of industry from the impacts of COVID-19 by doing any or all of the following:

- undertaking planning in collaboration with industry and providers to determine projects;
- understanding, determining and prioritising the necessary skills responses, training and pathways;
- reviewing existing industry skill standards and programme components;
- undertaking other related activities that align with the purpose of the funding;
- design work related to the proposals determined from any of the above activities.

### *Project scope and expectations*

I expect the TEC to operate a process to allocate funding to TITOs and WDCs. This will be in collaboration with TITOs in the first instance, and WDCs during their establishment and once established. The TEC may use funding allocated under this delegation to enable TITOs to carry out initial planning activities for projects.



I expect the projects to be directed at achieving the following, with the emphasis of any one project being placed according to the needs of the relevant industry or industries:

- undertake activities that meet the purpose and intent of the funding
- provide outputs that create confidence from industry, businesses, learners and providers in the training and training pathways that will result in positive outcomes and best support the skill needs of industry
- provide clear priorities to inform the TEC's investments in education and training, including priorities to fund products with industry endorsement
- provide information to WDCs, at the appropriate time, to support their advice to the TEC
- involve industries, industry groups and providers to develop common understandings of how industry sectors may recover from COVID-19 and how this recovery can be supported. This includes both regional and industry-wide training responses to support recovery from COVID-19
- work with providers on how to implement alternative arrangements for apprentices who have lost jobs, for example, interim learning solutions
- work with providers to design learner pathways, supported by industry, that support the likely recovery paths of industries
- contribute to the transition of TITO functions to WDCs and providers, including potential transfer of the projects to WDCs where appropriate.

The TEC may determine the core requirements of all projects. Projects may have a sole aim of developing the scope of further work to be undertaken. The output from one of these projects may be to seek additional funding through this fund.

One or more projects may be responsible for reviewing the fitness of existing standards and programme components to be used for micro credentials and other short-term learning solutions. If the relevant project is a project solely focussed on reviewing existing education products, this work must link closely to, and support, the work being undertaken by the other projects

I expect the TEC to work collaboratively with TITOs and WDCs to agree the scope and objectives of funded projects.

Funding under this delegation must not be used to fund activities, that may follow on from projects funded under this delegation, where such activities are funded by the TEC through other funding mechanisms or delegations, for example the delivery of programmes and courses.

### *Collaboration with relevant stakeholders including industry and providers*

The involvement of industry and providers is crucial to achieving project outputs that support confidence in the resultant training and skills pathways, products and other outputs. To facilitate this, the TEC must attach conditions on the funding for projects to ensure that they include the involvement of industries and the relevant providers. In addition, projects initially

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

led by TITOs should involve WDCs once available, including any establishment groups appointed prior to the formal establishment of WDCs.

## *Details of the delegation*

This delegation will utilise funding appropriated within the Tertiary Sector / Industry Collaboration Projects appropriation in Vote Tertiary Education. Up to \$16 million is available for the projects through to the end of 2021/22, although I anticipate the bulk of the funding to be allocated in 2020/21.

I delegate to the TEC (under section 159F(1)(e) of the Education Act 1989) authority to pay funding to TITOs and, if transferred, to WDCs to lead the projects. Funding is costed on the basis of a budget of \$1.5 million for each of ten projects. However, the TEC can be guided by the size and complexity of the proposed projects in allocating funding to them. TITOs, industry and others may contribute towards costs and in-kind expenses.

I expect the TEC to:

- develop and publish funding conditions that include a condition or conditions to state that funding may be recovered from TITOs and/or WDCs (as relevant) if it has not been, or is not being, used or used appropriately, including where conditions on funding are not met;
- negotiate milestones for the projects to be included in funding agreements that align to the purpose of the fund, and are linked to the scope of the project and use of the funding;
- report to me regularly on the projects it has funded, including the work to review skill standards and programme components and the achievement of key milestones; and
- publish information on the projects it has funded, including a public list that itemises for each project, its name, a short description, and contributing industries, providers and other entities.

This delegation applies from the date of this letter until the projects end. Funding is not available beyond the 2021/22 financial year.

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 blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written in a cursive style.

**Hon Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education