



14 May 2020

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

Dear Jenn

Delegation to fund the Hardship Fund for Learners for 2020

I am writing to advise you of my delegation of responsibility to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) for administering the COVID-19 student hardship fund for 2020. The purpose of the fund is to provide temporary financial assistance for currently enrolled tertiary learners who are facing hardship from the impacts of COVID-19. Hardship means any suffering, deprivation or financial challenge faced by a learner due to COVID-19 that is interfering with a learner's ability to progress with their study.

In particular, the funding must be used by TEOs to support learners facing hardship by:

- Providing direct cash payments; and/or
- Directly purchasing resources on learners' behalf, where suitable.

TEOs must not use this funding to support learners to access technology-enabled tertiary education as TEOs have already been resourced to provide this support, as described in the *Delegation to fund tertiary education organisations and transitional industry training organisations to support learners to access technology-enabled tertiary education and training*. TEOs must ensure funding is prioritised towards tertiary learners who are facing the greatest hardship from the impacts of COVID-19.

The TEC must design processes for allocating funding to TEOs, taking need into account. 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.

TEOs receiving funding from the following funds may receive this funding:

- Student Achievement Component – Provision at Level 3 and above on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework
- Student Achievement Component – Levels 1 and 2
- Youth Guarantee (excluding Trades Academies)
- Literacy and Numeracy (excluding Workplace Literacy and Numeracy)
- Specialised English for Speakers of Other Languages

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



- Those providers being funded via section 321 of the Education Act 1989.

This funding will utilise funding appropriated within the Access to Tertiary Education appropriation in Vote Tertiary Education. Up to \$20 million can be utilised.

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

- to TEOs to provide temporary financial assistance to current enrolled tertiary learners who are facing hardship from the impacts of COVID-19;
- to TEOs eligible for the funds specified above;
- of up to \$20 million in total in the 2019/20 financial year.

I expect the TEC to:

- ensure funding is applied towards assisting tertiary learners who are facing hardship from the impacts of COVID-19;
- report to me regularly on the TEOs it has funded and learners that are being supported, and the extent to which those learners have remained engaged in tertiary education;
- collect information from TEOs on their strategy and approach to identifying need;
- develop and publish funding conditions that include a condition or conditions to state that funding may be recovered from TEOs if it has not been, or is not being, used or used appropriately;
- publish information on the TEOs it has funded, including a public list of each TEO that receives funding, and for each TEO, the total amount of funding, nature of supports provided to learners, and number of learners it has supported and their demographic profile.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education