



ITO sector update

Issue 2016-3
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Pre-Budget announcement on additional funding for New Zealand Apprenticeships

As announced on 19 May 2016, Budget 2016 provides an additional \$14.4 million over four years for apprenticeship training to support another 5,500 apprentices by 2020. This additional funding becomes available from the 2017 calendar year.

2016 Plan amendment process and timing

We have received a few enquiries about in-year Plan amendments. We will provide detailed information about the process shortly. All Plan amendment requests for increases in funding will need to be submitted by 30 June.

As 2016 is a fairly tight fiscal environment, we will need to assess the relative merits of each application before making decisions on additional investment. Factors that we will consider include the evidence of industry need, proposed mix of provision, and ITO performance.

We will discuss forecast training volumes with those ITOs with significant under-delivery. We want to be able to re-invest funding that is unlikely to be used.

Educational performance indicators will be published in August 2016

We expect educational performance indicators for the tertiary education sector to be published in August 2016. We were aiming for an earlier publication date but that has been affected by development of new educational performance indicators across the tertiary education sector.

New cohort-based educational performance indicators for industry training

We are currently developing the reports for the proposed cohort-based programme completion and apprentice retention rates. We anticipate that the consultation paper on the proposed approach will be released later in June 2016. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Submitting NZQA programme approvals to TEC

ITOs must obtain NZQA programme approval for programmes that lead to New Zealand certificates and diplomas. In line with other tertiary educational organisations, we require a copy of NZQA programme approvals for our records for monitoring purposes.

We had hoped to receive ITO programme approvals automatically from NZQA; however, that is at odds with current NZQA processes for other programme approvals. Consequently we do not have all of the programme approval records for the relevant programmes in the Industry Training Register (ITR).

Please forward all industry training (non-apprenticeship) programme approvals for programmes entered into the ITR to us at customerservice@tec.govt.nz.

Please continue to forward all apprenticeship programme approvals to customerservice@tec.govt.nz as part of the New Zealand Apprenticeship approval process.

We will update our FAQs with this information shortly.

Verifying a learner's employment status and identity

We have removed the requirement to sight a learner's employment agreement. However, ITOs remain accountable for ensuring that trainees and apprentices meet the eligibility requirements set out in the [funding conditions](#).

We have aligned the identity verification requirements more closely to those of other funds. You are now able to match fields in the National Student Index to verify a learner's identity.

This information has been updated in the [FAQs](#) on our website

Duration of training programme should be aligned to hours of employment

There is no minimum number of hours of employment for learners but the training programme should be aligned to the hours the learner works. Part-time employees and trainees who undertake seasonal work are eligible for funded industry training, provided they meet eligibility requirements in all other regards.

This information has been updated in the [FAQs](#) on our website.

Visiting apprentices and recording the visits in the ITR

We were surprised to see that in 2015, some ITOs showed up to 40% of apprentices as having no visits.

We expect your ITO to comply with the [Code of Good Practice for New Zealand Apprenticeships](#). While there is no longer a minimum requirement of four visits a year to apprentices, we expect you to provide appropriate pastoral support, including visits.

Please ensure you record apprentice visits in the ITR. We will be following this issue up with the relevant ITOs.

Ultimately the new completion and retention indicators discussed above will provide insight into the effectiveness of different support systems. They should also allow us to move away from an input focus with more confidence.

Changes in the ITO Investment Team

We recently said good-bye to Seth Campbell who has moved on to the role of manager for the polytechnic team. Jane Duncan has been seconded to replace Seth as manager of the ITO Investment until Rachel Read finishes in Minister Upston's office early next year.

We have also welcomed Amelia Smith to the team as an advisor. Amelia was previously working in our sector helpdesk team.