

RoVE Virtual Hui



Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE)

Wednesday 6 April 2022
Speaker Profiles



Lee Kershaw Karaitiana, Director, Te Aowhītiki Limited

Lee Kershaw Karaitiana is the Director at Te Aowhītiki Limited. He is also the MC for this Hui.

Lee has worked in the tertiary sector for several years. He was the MC at last year's Workforce Development Council induction event.

Lee has recently finished at The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) as Pouārahi Māori - Cultural Advisor. A strong and passionate advocate of te reo Māori, Lee is a graduate of the prestigious Institute of Te Reo Māori Excellence, Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo Māori.

He shares his aroha and support for te reo within the spaces he works, and is strongly committed to ensuring adequate, appropriate and authentic representation of Māori in the education and public sectors.



Hon Minister Hipkins

Chris Hipkins is Minister of Education, Minister for COVID-19 Response and Minister for the Public Service. He is also Leader of the House.

In 2019 Minister Hipkins announced the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) with the aim of delivering a single, strong and sustainable system for vocational education and workplace training. He calls RoVE the biggest change to vocational education in a generation.

Before he entered Parliament, Chris worked in the industry training sector. He also worked at Parliament, first as Senior Advisor to two Education Ministers and later in the office of the then-Prime Minister Helen Clark. Chris became the Spokesperson for Education at the beginning of 2013.

Speaker Profiles



Hon Minister Sepuloni

Carmel Sepuloni is Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for ACC, Minister for Disability Issues, and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Minister Sepuloni announced the co-chair appointments for the permanent Regional Skills Leadership Groups (RSLG) in June 2021. She has described the RSLGs as a key part of how the Government addresses future skills and workforce needs in our regions.

Outside of politics Carmel has worked broadly across the health and education sectors, working as a Literacy Educator with youth in West Auckland, teaching in Samoa, managing equity programmes at the University of Auckland, managing the non-regulated Pacific health research project and was the CEO of New Zealand's only national Pacific health provider, Vaka Tautua.



Tim Fowler, Chief Executive, Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

Tim Fowler is the Chief Executive for the Tertiary Education Commission.

Tim was previously Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Tim has held leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand in both the private and university sectors, after starting his career in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Tim has an Honours Degree from Victoria University of Wellington, a Masters from the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii, and executive education from INSEAD and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Iona Holsted, Chief Executive and Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education

Iona Holsted is the Chief Executive and Secretary for Education at the Ministry of Education.

Prior to this, Iona was the Chief Review Officer and Chief Executive of the Education Review Office. Between 2007 and 2014 Iona held four senior management roles at the Ministry of Social Development, most recently as Deputy Chief Executive, Students, Seniors and Integrity Services. In this role she was responsible for services to seniors (superannuation payments), Studylink, and the integrity of the benefit system. Iona also spent six years as a Deputy Commissioner at the State Services Commission – now Te Kawa Mataaho / Public Service Commission.

Speaker Profiles



Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive, New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Dr Grant Klinkum is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Grant joined the New Zealand Qualifications Authority in early 2014 and has held the roles of Deputy Chief Executive Strategic and Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance. Prior to taking up the Chief Executive role, Grant was seconded to the Ministry of Education as Acting Deputy Secretary for Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers.

While working at the TEC between 2007 and 2014, Grant was responsible at different times for stakeholder engagement, the Chief Executive's office, and the Tertiary Investment function. He has also previously worked as Deputy Chief Executive for an Institute of Technology, and Dean of Faculty at two tertiary education organisations.



Stephen Town, Chief Executive, Te Pūkenga

Stephen Town is the Chief Executive of Te Pūkenga - New Zealand's largest tertiary education provider.

Stephen has held executive positions for over 20 years in tertiary education, local government, and transport. He is a former Chief Executive of Auckland Council. Previous roles include leading the Franklin District and Tauranga City Councils, and Regional Director of the NZTA in Northland/Auckland. His first chief executive role was at Wanganui Regional Community Polytechnic in 1994.



Toa Favena, Co - chair - Te Tai Tokerau Regional Skills Leadership Group

Toa Favena is the co-chair for the Te Tai Tokerau Regional Skills Leadership Group.

Toa is also currently Te Ahurei, Chief Executive for Tai Tokerau Wānanga (NorthTec), Te Pūkenga. He has extensive public and Māori development sector Chief Executive and senior leadership experience in transformational change and business growth. Toa's leadership roles in the northern region include:

- Key relationship partner Mātauranga with Te Kahu o Taonui, the 12 iwi Chairs network for Te Tai Tokerau
- Previous Chief Executive and now member for Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa
- Chairperson Maori Reference Group - Ministry of Social Development

Toa holds an MBA through the University of Auckland (2020), A Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration (University of Auckland, 2017) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Development, Maori (AUT, 2014).

Speaker Profiles



Hinerangi Edwards, Chair, Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council

Hinerangi has whakapapa to Taranaki whānui, Te Arawa, Tainui and Samoa.

Hinerangi has been involved in business since 2000. She chairs Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council. Hinerangi is an executive director of AATEA Solutions and is a Ministerial appointment to the Māori Economic Development Advisory Board. She has other governance roles in the digital tech, whenua and business development sectors and lives in Te Wairoa with her husband and five children.



Dr Wayne Ngata, MNZM, Member, Te Taumata Aronui

Dr Wayne Ngata MNZM is a member of Te Taumata Aronui.

Wayne is also a member of the TEC board and is the Chair of Te Pae Roa. He has extensive experience in Māori development and Māori education. He was Board Chair of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) and has been the Head of Mātauranga Māori at Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand. Most recently, he was Raukura/Chief Advisor Te Ao Māori at the Ministry of Education. He is an active supporter of education towards constructive and productive citizenship, particularly in te reo Māori. His particular area of scholarship is Māori literature, specifically the language of mōteatea.



Paul Hollings, General Manager, Food and Fibre Centre of Vocational Excellence

Paul Hollings is the General Manager of the Food and Fibre Centre of Vocational Excellence. Paul is a past member of both the Institute of Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand and the New Zealand Board of Engineering Diplomas. As the MIT Host Board Member of the Construction and Infrastructure CoVE, he was part of the team that built the successful bid for MIT to host the ConCoVE. An electrician by trade, Paul has worked in the vocational education and training sector for more than 20 years, in both ITO and ITP environments.



Philip Alexander-Crawford, Chief Executive, Hanga Aro Rau Workforce Development Council.

Philip Alexander-Crawford is the Chief Executive of the Hanga Aro Rau Workforce Development Council. Philip was previously Director of Te Pae Tawhiti – Māori Equity Partnership at Te Pūkenga. He has held senior leadership positions in the vocational education sector, including Chief Executive of Te Matarau Education Trust, General Manager Education for the Ngātiwai Trust Board and as Director of Development for Tai Tokerau Wānanga (NorthTec).

Speaker Profiles



Liz Brown, Co-Chair, Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group

Liz Brown is the Co-chair of the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group. Liz has extensive governance experience, including as current Chair of Te Taumutu Rūnanga, four years as the Te Taumutu representative on Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT) and now the current alternate member on TRoNT.

Liz is a Ngāi Tahu representative on the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group and represents Te Taumutu on Te Hononga (Christchurch City Council/Ngai Tahu governance group) and Te Kāhui Kahukura (local papatipu rūnanga governance group). Liz is currently Deputy Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori at the University of Canterbury.



Dr Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal, Composer, Researcher and Adviser

Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal is an independent composer and longtime researcher of mātauranga Māori.

Charles has written and edited six books and ten reports on aspects of mātauranga Māori and iwi histories and traditions. His previous roles include Director at Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Director of Graduate Studies and Research at Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa, Ōtaki, and Professor of Indigenous Development and Director, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, University of Auckland. Charles belongs to Marutūahu, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngā Puhi.



Morgan Healey, Manager, Ōritetanga Learner Success, Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

Morgan Healey is the Manager for Ōritetanga Learner Success at the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). The team is responsible for supporting the organisation to deliver on equitable outcomes for all learners at a system-level.

Morgan Healey was born and raised in the United States and arrived in Aotearoa via Ireland. She has spent the majority of her own personal and professional experience focused on understanding and addressing system level equity issues. She holds a PhD from the University of Limerick, Ireland in Sociology.

Since completing her PhD in 2010, Morgan has spent most of her professional career at the TEC working in a variety of roles; from direct engagement with providers as part of investment teams to TES implementation and delivering the 2018 PBRF Quality Evaluation.

Speaker Profiles



Craig Langdon, General Manager Qualifications and Standards, Muka Tangata Workforce Development Council.

Craig Langdon is the General Manager Qualifications and Standards for the Muka Tangata WDC.

Originally employed in the seafood industry in a range of roles, Craig has been working in education for the past 20 years and has an MA in Applied Linguistics and MEd in E-Learning. He has worked in tertiary institutions in Aotearoa, South Korea and Japan.

He previously managed the team responsible for qualifications, standards, programmes and resource development at Primary ITO. His current focus is on the creation of a fit-for-purpose, streamlined and future-focused WDC. Craig is leading a team to develop clear and accessible pathways in vocational education for learners in the food and fibre sector of Aotearoa.



Ian Funnell, Acting Manager – Policy and International Team New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

Ian is the Acting Manager of the Policy and International team at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. He has worked in the tertiary education sector since moving to New Zealand from the UK in 2004. Ian is passionate about quality, teaching, learning and assessment, formerly holding education delivery and leadership roles in a Private Training Establishment and an Industry Training Organisation. Ian has been the Manager of the Monitoring team at NZQA for the past five years.



Tania Winslade, Deputy Chief Executive, Learner Journey and Experience - Te Pūkenga

Tania Winslade is the Deputy Chief Executive, Learner Journey and Experience for Te Pūkenga. She has worked around the globe as an international commercial lawyer and in international development. Since returning home, she's held senior leadership roles that focus on supporting Māori and all New Zealanders to thrive, including in public law and policy, strategy, economic development, governance, people and organisational performance, and local government.



Andrew Lessells: National President of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations.

Andrew Lessells is the National President of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations. His entry into the student movement was through the Eastern Institute of Technology Students' Association, where he served as President in 2019 and 2020. He is passionate about education and creating transformative change that improves the lives of students in tertiary institutes across Aotearoa New Zealand. Achieving genuine and equal partnership with learners at every stage of their education.

Speaker Profiles



Gillian Dudgeon, Deputy Chief Executive – Delivery – Tertiary Education Commission

Gillian Dudgeon is Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery Directorate for the Tertiary Education Commission. Gillian joined TEC in July 2018, and prior to this she spent four years with the Earthquake Commission as their Chief Risk Officer and led the Internal Partners team. She has also held executive roles at ANZ and the National Bank across customer-facing, product management, IT and risk management teams.



Jivan Grewal, Acting General Manager, Employment, Skills and Immigration Policy

Jivan Grewal is Acting General Manager of the Employment, Skills and Immigration Policy branch of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Jivan has worked in labour market policy areas for close to a decade with experience spanning a range of regulatory and strategic areas. He also led the team that undertook the initial work to establish the Regional Skills Leadership Groups and has more recently has been leading the Government's efforts on the proposals for a New Zealand Income Insurance Scheme.



Katrina Sutich, Acting Group Manager, Tertiary Education Ministry of Education

Katrina Sutich is the Acting Group Manager, Tertiary Education for the Ministry of Education.

Katrina has worked at the Ministry since early 2018 when she joined as policy manager responsible for vocational and skills policy and has been Group Manager for Tertiary since March 2022. She has been involved in the Reform of Vocational Education work programme since its outset.

She has previously worked at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in a range of policy areas including intellectual property, KiwiSaver, Retirement Savings and corporate governance. Earlier in her career she worked as a lawyer in New Zealand and the United Kingdom and has run her own business.



Jordan Gush, BCITO apprentice, Interim Learner Advisory Committee Co-Chair, Te Pūkenga Council member.

Jordan Gush is a BCITO apprentice, an Interim Learner Advisory Committee Co-Chair and a Te Pūkenga Council member.



Dahrian Watene, NorthTec. Interim Learner Advisory Committee Co-chair, Komiti Māori member

Dahrian Watene, a NorthTec student is an Interim Learner Advisory Committee Co-chair and a Komiti Māori member.