



November 2023

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Message from the Chair



Welcome to the November Newsletter

On the 29th November the last Peak Bodies meetings were held with all the relevant government agencies we work with. What was good to note was the attendance of policy staff from MOE and MBIE at these meetings, something we have been asking for, for a very long time. This was an opportunity for them to fully understand the operational aspects of policy that they design. I was happy with their willingness to listen and engage with us.

We continue to raise the issues that affect us as providers and our learners that we represent. A major issue at the moment will be the disestablishment of Te Pukenga and the effect of this on sub-contracted providers. Sub-contracting is an issue we have raised with NZQA, as the rules are out of date and are not fit for purpose.

Obviously the next 100 days will be of great interest to us all as the new Coalition government start implementing their policies. Wayne will be informing members of the policies that will affect our sector.

We have already sent a “BIM” to our new Ministers, the Hon Erica Stanford and the Hon Penny Simmonds. We will endeavour to engage personally with them as soon as possible.

I understand that for many 2023 has been a difficult year post-covid and we can only hope that you are able to survive and can see a way forward. Please reach out to the Board or Wayne if you need support.

Regards

Craig

Chair

What's been happening since the last newsletter?

Below are some of the meetings and events attended since the last edition, with some expanded upon later in the newsletter.

NZQA Code Sector Advisory Group

VET Operational Leadership Group meeting

Tahatu Advisory Panel

Cross-agency Peak Bodies Meeting

International Peak Bodies Meeting

ITENZ-ENZ monthly meeting

NZQA meetings

ConCove meeting

WDC CE meeting

ENZ PTE-Agent webinar - greater China

ITENZ networking event - Wellington

New Government

Key Ministers for the PTE sector

Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills - Penny Simmonds (Outside cabinet)

Minister of Education - Erica Stanford

Minister of Immigration - Erica Stanford

Minister for Regulation - David Seymour

Associate Minister of Education (Partnership Schools) - David Seymour

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Winston Peters



Penny Simmonds



Erica Stanford

Minister Simmonds will be our main Minister and understands our sector pretty well. She is already well-known to ITENZ having met with us several times.

The Coalition's [100-day plan](#) includes *begin to disestablish Te Pūkenga* so we can expect some announcements about that in the coming weeks. National have previously also expressed the view that WDCs and RSLGs should be disestablished but there is nothing about this in their publicly-

released planning at this stage so we will wait to see whether that remains the case.

The new government is committed to rebuilding the export education industry and having Minister Stanford with both Education and Immigration portfolios should lead to better alignment of strategy and policy, although our understanding is that Minister Simmonds will be responsible for tertiary international education.

Some key points in the coalition partner agreements

National-NZ First coalition agreements

- stop first year **Fees Free** and replace with a final year Fees Free with no change before 2025.
- Maintain the **Apprenticeship Boost scheme**
- Improve the **Accredited Employer Work Visa** to focus the immigration system on attracting the workers and skills New Zealand needs.
- Ensure **Immigration New Zealand** is engaged in proper **risk management and verification** to ensure migrants are filling genuine workforce needs
- Investigate the establishment of an “**Essential Worker” workforce planning mechanism** to better plan for skill or labour shortages in the long term.

National - ACT coalition agreement

- Amend the Education and Training Act 2020 such that tertiary education providers receiving taxpayer funding must commit to a **free speech** policy.
- Increase the cap on the number of workers under the **Recognised Seasonal Employer** scheme to increase the flexibility of the quota allocation system
- Establish a new government department, required to assess the quality of new and existing legislation and **regulation**, funded by disestablishing the Productivity Commission and consolidating some regulatory quality work

across the public sector where appropriate

National's international education policies don't seem to have been affected by coalition agreements. They are:

- Fast track visa processing for international students who pay an additional fee.
- Increase the hours international students are able to work each week from 20 to 24.
- Expand work rights for international students and their partners to make New Zealand a more attractive destination.
- Diversify the countries Education New Zealand recruits international students from.

[You can read the agreements in full here.](#)

We have sent a Briefing for the Incoming Minister (BIM) to Ministers Stanford and Simmonds and have requested meetings as soon as possible.

ITENZ End-of-Year Networking Events

The first end-of-year members' networking event was held at Le Cordon Bleu in Wellington this week with a small but enthusiastic group and an excellent array of food from Le Cordon Bleu.



The next events are:

Christchurch - 5th December

Auckland - 6th December

[For details and to register, see here.](#)

We look forward to seeing you there.

ITENZ Student Representative on TEC student council

Malachy Heath from ITENZ member, SAE has been selected to sit on the The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Board of Commissioners-established Student and Learner Advisory Committee.

The Committee has been set up to support the TEC Board to make learner-centric decisions based on the lived experiences of learners and to steward the system to achieve equity. It is made up of eight learners and three Commissioners. The learner members selected reflect the diversity of our tertiary education system: they come from all sectors - PTE, wānanga, Te Pūkenga and university; study at different levels and modes; and come from different cultural backgrounds.

The diversity in the makeup of the committee enables a holistic examination of learner-related matters and fosters a collaborative

environment where different voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes. This structure helps to promote a student-centered approach to tertiary education, where the needs and preferences of learners are given due consideration in shaping the overall tertiary educational experience.

Education New Zealand Brand Campaign

Education New Zealand has launched their new brand campaign, *Learn New Every Day*, targeting young international students. They have released a short marketing video showing first-time experiences an international student might have in a single day, filmed from the point of view of the student. Its youthful, colourful and fast-paced. [You can watch it here.](#)

For more information on ENZ's brand campaign, [see here](#)



<https://www.enz.govt.nz/home/learn-new-every-day>

ICEF Agent Survey Report

ICEF has published its [global agent-voice survey](#). Key findings are:

- Most responding agents expect to refer more students in 2023/24 than the year prior, but they are placing them across a wider range of destinations and fields of study
- Affordability, work opportunities, and visa processing were identified as some of the top decision factors for students this year
- Agents report that customer acquisition and supports for students and families are the biggest demands on staff time
- Referral commissions are largely stable compared to last year but there appears to be some upward pressure as well

ITENZ Communities of Practice

Minutes of previous meetings are [here](#).

SDR-Users Group

The SDR Users Community of Practice has monthly meetings for administrators working with PTE compliance and reporting. We have an informal monthly meeting with a check in and discussion about any questions or concerns that we have, and interesting developments related to our work. New participants are welcome.

The next meeting is from **3 – 4 pm on Thursday 18 January 2024**. Please email jill.tuwhare@spcnm.ac.nz if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

Māori Engagement Rōpu

The Māori engagement rōpū continues to meet monthly to share

aspirations, resources and outcomes. We're planning a strategy session at **9.30 am Thursday 14 December** to plan the way ahead and select a new chair. Newcomers welcome. Please email Wayne to let us know you're interested, and we'll send you the link.

Foundation and Youth Guarantee CoP

The YG and Foundation CoP met on 21 November. Discussions included:

- WLN and ILN 2024 funding changes
- Last date of assessment changes for relevant unit standards
- LN Pilot and NCEA literacy and numeracy co-requisites
- An overall reflection of the year

The next meeting is **planned for February. The date is to be confirmed.**

International Education Forum

The IEF met on 22nd November and discussed their priorities to present to the new Minister, opportunities for vocational programmes, ideas for the NZ International Education conference, webinars and ANZA.

The next meeting will be early 2024. Date TBC

TEC and NZQA Resources

TEC have published [Best Practice Guidelines to Support Refugee-Background Tertiary Learners in Aotearoa New Zealand](#). The guidelines provide a context to refugee learners and suggestions for supporting access, engagement and participation in tertiary programmes.

NZQA has [Resources for Tertiary Providers](#) available on their website. This is a good place to start when you are looking for information on any NZQA policies or processes.

New members

We are pleased to welcome new ITENZ member [PassRite Driving Academy](#). PassRite are based in Auckland and offer a number of driver-related courses.

Member news

Happy Birthday Fruition Horticulture!

On November 1st, 2023, [Fruition Horticulture BOP marked its 20th anniversary](#) in business. From the early days of investing in data projectors and servers to supporting the kiwifruit industry through Psa, Fruition has come a long way. Today, it runs five successful education programmes and a thriving horticultural consultancy, all while facing the challenge of accommodating a growing workforce in a bustling office. As Fruition reflects on the last two decades of growth, Sandy and Ruth express their gratitude to all who have contributed to the journey thus far.



ITENZ Members Win at the 14th Annual Indian Newslink Business Awards, 2023

Two ITENZ members won awards at the 14th Annual Indian Newslink Business Awards on 27th November.

[Mission Ready HQ](#) won four awards, including the *Supreme Business of The Year Award*. They also won the *Best Medium-Sized Business Award* and the *Business Excellence with Social Responsibility Award*. In addition, Diana Sharma, Co-founder and Director, won the *Best Business Woman of the Year Award*. Congratulations Mission Ready!



Photo by Creative Eye Limited

The [NZ Airline Academy Ltd](#) operating under sub-contract to the [National Trade Academy](#), an ITENZ member, won the *Best Large Business Award* The award was in recognition for their growth and success in training international students, towards their Commercial Pilots License in Oamaru. Congratulations NTA and NZ Airline Academy!



If you have a news item you would like to appear here, please contact

admin@itenz.co.nz

Reminders

TEC - December reporting rounds are coming up. These are your last opportunity to report your eligible learners fees for 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

TEC Investment Plan guidance for 2025 will be released in February 2024.

[Details and timeline here](#)

Your details on the ITENZ website

If your details are not complete on [the ITENZ website](#), please provide the information [via this link](#).

ITENZ logo

Please use the ITENZ logo on your website. This differentiates you from non-members. If you need a copy, please email admin@itenz.co.nz

Resources

The ITENZ website contains [resources for members](#).

Ngā mihi nui

Wayne



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