



## February 2024

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## Message from the Chair



Welcome to the February Newsletter

Two months into the 2024 year and the government are still working through their 100 day plan. At this stage there seems to be a big focus in our sector on Te Pukenga, and Penny Simmonds, the new Tertiary Education Minister, has not yet responded to our requests for a meeting. We hope to continue lobbying for the PTE sector and the important part we play in the tertiary education system, especially in light of the results shown within the report *Describing the PTE Sector in 2023* by NielsonIQ.

Visa processing again is a concern for international providers and we have been lobbying for improvements in this area as many courses have started with students still waiting for visas. This was highlighted by ITENZ at the Peak Bodies Alliance meeting and concerns have been forwarded to INZ. We understand that they are working on improving processing as we

speak.

We also continue to lobby for reduced compliance in our sector and the joint cross-government agency approach seems to be gaining more impetus. We now also have a Minister of Regulation and we have sent Minister Seymour a BIM outlining our concerns and willingness to meet.

The first Peak Bodies meeting for 2024 is coming up on 13<sup>th</sup> of March and we have a number of issues on the agenda for our sector. As always, if you have a issue let Wayne know and we will discuss and either manage a response from the government agency or if it is a wider sector issue we will request it be added to the agenda for a discussion and action.

As always the Board have met in February and we continue to work on your behalf.

Craig Musson  
Chair

### **What's been happening since the last newsletter?**

ITENZ has represented members in the following groups this month:

- Muka Tangata Delivery and Assesment for the 21st Century Steering Committee
- NZQA Quality and Quality Assurance Advisory Group
- Cyber Securiuty for the Tertiary Sector - PTE advisory group

We have met with the following agencies/entities and shared member questions and concerns:

- Fairway Resolution
- Muka Tangata
- Ringa Hora
- Toitu Te Waiora
- Waihanga Ara Rau
- Toi Mai
- NZQA
- TEC
- Education NZ
- International Education Peak Bodies Alliance

The ITENZ Board meeting was also held this month

### **Update on Government cost savings.**

On Feb 7th, [The Post](#) reported on cost-savings responses to date.

MoE has been asked to reduce costs by 7.5% and have paused most recruitment, including almost 160 jobs, but there have been no job cuts to date. Organisational changes are a possibility.

Any TEC cost reductions will contribute to MoE's reduction.

MBIE, which also has a 7.5% cost-reduction target, has a limited voluntary redundancy process in place.

Education New Zealand is not included in the Treasury's list of cost savings and does not have any redundancies or organisational restructuring planned

The article didn't include any information on NZQA.

At the [Education and Workforce Committee](#) Hearing on 18th February, Tim Fowler answered questions on cost savings across TEC. They are looking across the organisation and he says cuts will eventually impact staff.

He also responded to questions about the state of universities, the effectiveness of ROVE (National looking for evidence that centralisation hasn't worked, Labour for evidence that changes have been having an impact, and both finding a bit). Much of it was based on the [TEC BIM](#) and focussed on providing explanations for new Ministers/MPs on how the system works. The theme, though, was that we are, and will continue to be, in a financially challenging situation.

One comment Tim made was that 'anyone who can deliver online has an advantage,' partly because there are regional areas where face to face delivery is not viable.

There was no discussion of PTEs or of the impact on them of past or future changes.

(If you decide to watch, note that Efeso Collins makes a couple of appearances with questions)

## **NZQA Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) Redesign progress**

The NZQA Quality Assurance Framework Redesign project continues, with the objectives below identified following a period of engagement with providers, NZQA staff, government agencies, WDCs, learners, employers,

and Pacific, Māori and disabled voice in 2023:

1. Focus quality assurance on providers' approach to equity of access and opportunities for ākonga success
2. Move to a dual focus of understanding individual providers and the system
3. Reduce regulatory burden for providers
4. Better recognise differences between providers
5. Increase consistency of NZQA's evaluative practices
6. Support innovation while assuring quality
7. Authentic and collaborative relationships across the system
8. Better reflect our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Sub-sector groups and government agencies, have given feedback on a draft, high-level, QAF model over the past few weeks, and this week PTE, Te Pūkenga, Wānanga, and WDC members of the Quality and Quality Assurance Advisory Group met to give further feedback.

Once this process is complete, a draft model will go out for consultation.

Note that, while there is a draft model, no decisions have yet been made on EERs or other QA processes. The Rules will need to change before there will be changes to quality assurance processes.

### **Research shows PTEs deliver a quality experience**



## Research shows NZ Private Tertiary Establishment deliver a quality experience for learners

Read the [article on quality in the PTE sector](#) here.

The information contained within is drawn from the research which ITENZ commissioned NielsenIQ to undertake last year. There is a link to the full report, ***Describing the PTE sector in 2023***, within the article or you can find it on the [Member Resources](#) page of the website.

The project was funded by Education New Zealand (ENZ), for which we are very grateful, and the initial focus was on describing the sector for the purposes of international education, including the opportunities and challenges. The description of the sector naturally included domestic as well, and ITENZ decided to provide additional funding to include a wider

focus on the domestic sector, including interviews with employers. The result is a comprehensive report into both areas.

The report finds that there is a consistent view across sector stakeholders and providers on the strengths of PTEs - the diversity of programmes and levels offered; the learner-centred orientation and high-quality pastoral care; the commitment to quality learning and outcomes; the strong connections to communities, industries and schools; and an agility and nimbleness that enables them to be responsive to industry needs.

These are things we knew anecdotally but which are now supported by evidence.

It finds the sector delivers immediate and longer-term value for New Zealand, including significant economic benefits from international students. It identifies the loss of post-study work rights for sub-degree programmes as a significant challenge.

The report notes that with the changing tertiary sector landscape, there is an ongoing need for resilience, agility and responsiveness, for thinking outside the box, and looking for the gaps and opportunities in areas that are not (well) serviced by public providers.

## ITENZ Conference 2024 - hold the dates!

The 2024 ITENZ Conference, ***Building Futures – Transformation, Quality, and Sustainability in Vocational and Tertiary Education***, will be held at the Victory Centre in Auckland on 17th and 18th September.

Keep an eye on the [ITENZ website](#) and on your email for updates.



2024 Conference  
17-18 September  
Victory Convention Centre, Au

## ITENZ Excellence Awards - nominations open

- **Provider of the Year Excellence Award**
- **Tutor of the Year Excellence Award**
- **Outstanding Performance Award.**

ITENZ Excellence Awards allow you to showcase your PTE and recognise your staff. They are a great way to demonstrate to your team, your peers, and to the wider tertiary sector your commitment to quality. Comments from previous participants include:

*“The ITENZ awards not only validate a staff member’s contribution to your organisation through an externally benchmarked assessment but also recognise hard work and dedication by a team member within the School.”*

*“It was an honour to win the awards. It is tangible evidence that the organisation is doing a good job.”*

*“A totally worthwhile process”*



[Nomination information here.](#) (Scroll down the web page)

Contact [wayne.dyer@itenz.co.nz](mailto:wayne.dyer@itenz.co.nz) if you have any questions or would like help with a nomination.

A webinar will be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 12pm** to discuss the process and to answer any questions.

## **Ako Aotearoa Southern Regional Forum - register now**

Ako Aotearoa have released the [draft programme](#) for the upcoming [Southern Regional Forum](#) in Dunedin on **22nd March**.

Ako Aotearoa staff and tertiary educators and trainers from across the sector will speak on topics such as **AI, Te Tiriti, Pasifika values and Adult and Community Education in the South.**

[To register see here](#)

## **ITENZ Communities of Practice updates**

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

### **Business and Compliance Community of Practice (Previously SDR-Users CoP)**

The Business & Compliance Community of Practice (previously SDR Users CoP) has monthly meetings for administrators working with PTE compliance and reporting. Meetings are informal with a check in and discussion about any issues or questions that we have. We share concerns or interesting developments related to funding, meeting compliance requirements and maintaining business viability/growth. New participants are welcome.

***The next meeting is from 3 – 4 pm on Thursday 22 March 2024.*** Please email [jill.tuwhare@spcnm.ac.nz](mailto:jill.tuwhare@spcnm.ac.nz) if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

### **Māori Engagement Rōpu**

The focus of this group is to support one another to provide an inclusive environment for tauira as learners while we also develop capability in te reo, in cultural safety and cultural competence. The members of the rōpu are all at different points in their growth and we look forward to encouraging new members.

We have two new Co-Chairpersons for 2024 - Robyn Carruthers (CE of South Pacific College of Natural Medicine) and Tyree Connor (Director of Training Centric). Our next meeting will be in the second week of March – ***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm.*** All welcome!

Please contact Robyn – [robyn.carruthers@spcnm.ac.nz](mailto:robyn.carruthers@spcnm.ac.nz) or Tyree [tyree@trainingcentric.co.nz](mailto:tyree@trainingcentric.co.nz)

### **Foundation and Youth Guarantee CoP**

The YG and Foundation Community of Practice met on 20 February and discussed the WLN and ILN 2024 funding condition changes, the TEC expectations for the YG Wellbeing and Pathways Support subsidy, and NCEA programmes.

***The next meeting is scheduled for 26 March at 12pm.***

### **International Education Forum**

The in-person International Education Forum will be held on **14 March 2024 from 9:30am to 3:30pm** at New Zealand School of Food & Wine. We will have speed dating with agents and speakers from Education New Zealand, INZ, and Fairway Solutions as well as the opportunity to network.

For more information, contact Giuliana Silveira - [giuwork05@gmail.com](mailto:giuwork05@gmail.com)

***Please contact [admin@itenz.co.nz](mailto:admin@itenz.co.nz) if you would like to join any of these groups.***

### **Upcoming ITENZ Webinars and roadshows**

Webinar

**ITENZ Excellence Awards** - description, benefits, and process

**Tuesday 19th March, 12pm**

As usual, the webinar invitation will be sent to the main contact in your member organisation.

**2024 Roadshows - save the dates**

Roadshows are being planned for Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch again this year and as with last year, we will be inviting WDCs, NZQA, TEC and MoE to participate. More details to come.

**Auckland 8 May**

**Palmerston North 9 May**

**Christchurch 14 May**

## **Member news**

*If you have a news item you would like to appear here, please contact [admin@itenz.co.nz](mailto:admin@itenz.co.nz)*

## **New ITENZ members**

We are pleased to welcome new members [Pipi Learning](#) and [Deacon Training Academy](#).

Pipi Learning have had a long association with ITENZ and exhibited at the ITENZ Conference last year. They offer eLearning content and online learning solutions to providers and employers.

Deacon Training Academy, a new Christchurch-based PTE, offers courses in mental health support.

## **Reminders**

**TEC - Important dates can be found in the [TEC Business Calendar](#)**

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

[Details and timeline here](#)

**INZ** - [subscribe to regular updates here](#)

**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](mailto:admin@itenz.co.nz)



**Ngā mihi nui**  
**Wayne**

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