



ITENZ

Independent Tertiary Education
New Zealand

May 2024

In this month's newsletter

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [What's been happening since the last newsletter.](#)
- [Budget 2024](#)
- [ITENZ Roadshows](#)
- [PTE brochure](#)
- [ITENZ Conference - get your speaker submissions in!](#)
- [ITENZ at the Ako Aotearoa Central Hub Forum](#)
- [International student visas](#)
- [Toi Mai consultation - enabling technologies](#)
- [Skills standards](#)
- [NZQA Code workshops](#)
- [ITENZ Communities of Practice updates](#)
- [Cyber security alert](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Member news](#)

- [New ITENZ members](#)
- [Reminders](#)

Message from the Chair



Welcome everyone

We're in for another year of change and with the budget announced we now have confirmation that Fees Free will apply to the final year of study and that final year for a one year programme is the first year. We are still waiting to hear about the 2025 funding model.

From the good news desk we are making good progress with the government agencies on compliance minimisation. There is a willingness across all agencies to reduce duplication and streamline processes.

From an international perspective, visa approval rates are down and INZ

have said poor applications are a major reason. We are not yet convinced, especially as many of us are using the same agents as before when we had higher approval rates. We think there is more going on that we would like to understand. We have a Minister of International Education promoting increasing international export education, whilst the actions of another government agency are making that hard to achieve! Having just come back from Vietnam with Christchurch Educated, we met many agents operating in Australia and Canada and now wanting to start promoting NZ. The usual concern from agents was the risk of visa declines.

The generic letter sent out with the decline letter now doesn't explain why the student was declined, so how can we improve training with our agents, if we don't know what the issue is? Is it time for a review process to be included, where a provider, student or agent can dispute the decision when we believe it is wrong?

We are told to diversify and yet when we try there are impediments. This frustration is not just with our sector! It's time to stop looking for reasons to decline student applications, but to look for solutions!

The changes to the Accredited Employer Work Visa was another example of poor policy that affected current students and migrants negatively, without any consultation. We have a lot still to work on.

This will make for an interesting conference this year.

Regards

Craig Musson

Chair

What's been happening since the last newsletter.

- ITENZ roadshows in Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch
- Member webinar on instructional design
- Meetings with NZQA, TEC, INZ, MoE, and WDCs
- ITENZ represented on Ako Aotearoa Central Forum panel
- ENZ event with key agents from China
- ITENZ Board meeting
- Budget meeting

Budget 2024

The 2024 budget was delivered yesterday. The [Minister's press release can be read here](#) and [full details can be found here](#).

[TEC have also published details on their website.](#)

Following the budget announcement, TEC and the Minister spoke to the tertiary sector.

Key points for PTEs

- **Fees free**

As expected, fees free moves to the final year. The new model sees repayments being made to the learner following completion of the qualification with repayments starting in 2026. Work is continuing on policy

TEC confirmed in their post-budget meeting that a one-year programme would be considered the final year.

- **Apprenticeship boost**

Ongoing funding is budgeted for employers of apprentices in targeted industry areas. Exactly which industries those will be is under consideration. From the start of 2025, there will be no payment to employers for second-year apprentices

- **Tertiary funding**

The budget includes a proposed 6% AMFM for 2025 which, along with a 2.5% fees increase will go some way towards mitigating the impacts of inflation that providers have faced. The AMFM will be consulted on later in the year.

- **Overseas student loan interest rate.**

The interest charged on student loans for those living overseas is forecast to increase to 4.8%, a 1% increase. Interest on late payments will also increase by 1%.

- **VET sector changes**

As expected, the disestablishment of Te Pūkenga and a move to locally-focussed provision continues. Funding ceases for WDCs at the end of June and for CoVES in 2025 (which had always been the case unless it was renewed). The functions carried out by WDCs need to continue and we have been told by the Minister to expect a replacement model for the

sector, including WDCs and Te Pūkenga, by the end of June. Once the model has been consulted on, options for work-based delivery will be considered.

Decisions on funding will be made after the model has been developed and consulted on. It is not yet certain whether those changes will be implemented in 2025 or 2026. We will keep you posted when we know more

For more information on the [full budget, see here](#).

ITENZ Roadshows

We held three very successful roadshows in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with presentations from NZQA, TEC, WDCs, MSD (in Palmerston North and Christchurch) and Rothbury Insurance (Auckland and Christchurch).

While many hoped to hear updates on fees-free, VET sector changes, and funding changes, there had been no announcements from Government at that time. We had expected that a plan for standard-setting and industry training would be known by now; however, we now expect that announcement, along with changes to be made at the end of June. (See Budget section above)

Despite those gaps, we received comprehensive updates on other things happening in the sector, including alignment between NZQA and WDCs and compliance minimisation work being done across agencies, which ITENZ has been a key part of.



Feedback from attendees has been very positive, including comments such as:

- *Great information and updates*
- *Knowledgeable representatives from each of the agencies available to answer questions.*
- *The venue and the timings for the presenters were perfect. Having the presenters available for the duration was useful as well as there was the opportunity to network with them*
- *Impressed with the openness of the agencies and their engagement.*

You can find the presentation slides in the [Member Resources area of the website.](#)

A special thank you to all the presenters and to the teams at ITS in Palmerston North (including the students, who performed a waiata) and TII in Christchurch for hosting the events and welcoming attendees.

PTE brochure

With input from ITENZ and other peak bodies, Education New Zealand has produced a PTE brochure, which you can use for your marketing.



Although it is aimed at international markets, the messages are equally valid for domestic learners. For example, under Reasons to Study at a PTE , it includes: specialist programmes, student-centred learning, high quality, hands-on experience, small class sizes, work ready, supportive and welcoming.

You can download a copy from the [Member Resources page](#) under International Education (Misc)

ITENZ Conference - get your speaker submissions in!

Speaker submissions are still open until June 14th for the 2024 ITENZ Conference: *Te Pae Āpōpō: Building Futures- Transformation, Quality and Sustainability in Vocational and Tertiary Education*.

We are keen to hear from speakers interested in making presentations or facilitating workshops relating to either domestic or international education.

This is a great opportunity to share what you have been doing.

We encourage first-time presenters and are happy to work with you on your presentation ideas.

[See here for more guidance](#), including some possible sub-themes, and for the submission form.



ITENZ at the Ako Aotearoa Central Hub Forum

On 17th May, ITENZ Board member and HLC CEO, Patrick Rennell, presented the voice of PTEs as part of an Ako Aotearoa Central Hub Forum discussion panel discussing the changing tertiary education environment.

Asked about a message he might have for the Minister, he spoke about the urgent need for certainty, particularly around funding for 2025. While PTEs are responsive and agile, we need clear and timely information on the direction of government so that we can prepare and give our learners the best possible experience.

He acknowledged the academic quality PTEs deliver with 95% rated Category 1 or 2 and their ability to innovate and provide employers and learners choice in how they engage with education and training.

He also highlighted September's ITENZ Conference as an opportunity to be part of the conversation for transforming vocational education while maintaining quality in our changing environment.

International student visas

The international alliance group (all sectors of education involved in international) met with INZ to try to understand the reasons for declining visa approval rates for some markets, especially India and the Philippines, which have had a downward trend in approvals since 2022. According to INZ, much of it is a result of financial irregularities and the agents moving their sights from Australia and Canada to New Zealand without fully understanding the NZ requirements. The trend is concerning and so we are continuing to try to understand it.

The [PIE newsletter published an interview with ITENZ](#) about our call for post study work rights for sub-degree level learners. Not only have providers lost markets, sectors of the economy are missing out on skilled workers. We also believe that students studying in sub degree level programmes should have the opportunity to practise their skills and return home with both a qualification and practical experience.

Toi Mai consultation - enabling technologies

Te Wao Toi Whānui, the workforce development plan for vocational training for Toi Whānui (Enabling Technologies), has just been released and is now live on the Toi Mai website.

The plan highlights the challenges and opportunities in attracting, training and retaining Toi Whānui employees and offers actions and recommendations for building a thriving and sustainable workforce, particularly around different modes of provision, qualification reviews (including introducing skills standards), sector funding for training, and new areas of provision.

Visit <https://toimai.nz/for-industry/nga-peka-o-toi/toi-whanui/> to download/read the plan, and to provide feedback via the survey.

Consultation is open until **10 June**, and stakeholder feedback will help inform the final actions and recommendations.

Toi Mai is particularly interested in provider feedback as part of consultation.

Skills standards

Twenty five skills standards have been approved to date. Most have come from Toi Mai in the computing and screen industry skills areas. Ringa Hora has developed standards in security and small business, Waihanga Ara Rau in concrete construction and carpentry, and Hanga Aro Rau in in Manufacturing processes.

All skills standards numbers are in the 40000s. For example, *40000- Manufacture a timber flooring cassette* and *40043- Manage a server for an organisation*

ConCove and Waihanga Ara Rau, are working together on a [Skill Standards Good Practice research project](#), which will develop a capability-building Good Practice Toolkit to support the implementation of skills standards.

The Toolkit will be accompanied by capability-building workshops with standard-setting bodies, providers, and industry in the second half of this year.

NZQA Code workshops

NZQA is running consistency and Code workshops between now and the end of the year. You can find [the schedule 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 20 June 2024. Please email jill.tuwhare@spcnm.ac.nz if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

Māori Engagement Rōpū

The ITENZ Māori Engagement Rōpū meets monthly to share how members are supporting their Tauira, te ao Māori and te tiriti o Waitangi within their organisations and programmes. We have just set up a group on Teams for our meetings, to store meeting notes and to enable us to easily contact one another files. We are focussed on open discussion and sharing where we are at.

Our next monthly hui will take place on **Monday 10 June at 1pm**. All welcome to come along. Please contact Robyn – robyn.carruthers@spcnm.ac.nz or Tyree tyree@trainingcentric.co.nz

Foundation and Youth Guarantee CoP The YG and Foundation Community of Practice met on 23 April. The upcoming consistency review

for the New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills (Level 2) was discussed. The other agenda items were added to the agenda for the next meeting which is scheduled for 18 June.

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 June at 12pm.

International Education Forum

On **Wednesday 5 June**, Giuliana Silveira will be hosting the International Education Forum Online. This is an opportunity for all providers who offer programs to international students to come together to discuss what is top of mind, share good practice and help shape the international strategy for ITENZ membership.

Despite ITENZ continuous efforts in lobbying for PSWR, we are not seeing any signs of a shift in position. This leads to a very important question: 'what strategies do providers have in place if PSWR don't continue?' Let's brainstorm together and find a way forward.

If you are not on the mailing list for this group and would like to be involved, contact Giuliana at giuwork05@gmail.com

Please contact admin@itenz.co.nz if you would like to join any of these groups.

Cyber security alert

TEC have issued the following cyber security alert:

We have been made aware that an account compromise has taken place

with one of our tertiary providers. A compromised account has been used to try to solicit payments while pretending to be TEC through written communication.

We ask you to please remain vigilant and ensure that if you receive this type of communication, you only take action through official TEC channels or contacts. If you have received an email that appears to be from TEC but hasn't come through one of our official channels, please contact us.

- TEC will never ask for or provide a bank account number for you to transfer funds into
- TEC will never contact you outside of our official channels – e.g. Workspace 2
- TEC is always here to verify information with you if you are unsure – please check with us first.

Please refer to our [cyber security information page](#) on our website if you have any questions, or get in touch with us.

Webinars

The May webinar on Instructional Design Fundamentals presented by Kumar Laxman can be viewed on the member resources page of the website.

Member news

If you have a news item you would like to appear here, please contact admin@itenz.co.nz

SAE have featured in an [NZQA Insights Paper](#) which tells the story of the initial stages of their mātauranga Māori journey.

"With a global reach that spans over 40 campuses in more than 25 countries you might think that a school of that size has a "one size fits all" model. However, when you speak to Dr Suzette Major, Campus Director, SAE Auckland, she says "it may look and feel like any SAE campus around the globe but we are situated in Aotearoa New Zealand. We need to recognise that and acknowledge that. On the one hand we're connected and we're very proud of our connections to the global network. But on the other hand, we want to reflect on what makes us unique. So, it's been a journey to unpack ourselves from that global network." Suzette adds, "What does it mean to work within Aotearoa? What does it mean to teach learners within this space, this environment?" This was the base from which SAE started their deliberate and planned journey with mātauranga Māori"

New ITENZ members

We are pleased to welcome new ITENZ member [Wanaka Helicopters](#), who deliver private and commercial pilot training for both helicopters and aeroplanes.

Reminders

Register now for the ITENZ Conference to get earlybird rates.

Register for the ITENZ Roadshows

Get your **speaker submission** in for the ITENZ Conference - we are keen to hear from members wanting to share their experience and knowledge.

Start your application for **ITENZ Awards**.

Note NZQA application deadlines for Semester One 2025 delivery

Degrees - by 1st July

L1-6 - by 4th October

Use ITENZ logo on your website

This differentiates you from non-members. If you need a copy, please email

admin@itenz.co.nz



Ngā mihi nui

Wayne

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