

27 August 2024

Redesign of the Vocational Education and Training System

Ministry of Education

Via email: VocationalEducation.Reforms@education.govt.nz

Tēna koe

SUBMISSION ON REDESIGN OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the redesign of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, including Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs).
2. The DCC's submission is primarily in support of Otago Polytechnic Te Kura Matatini Ki Otago (Otago Polytechnic).
3. The DCC recognises the valuable role that Otago Polytechnic has in Ōtepoti Dunedin as an educator, employer, and flagship organisation in the community which contributes much to the economy, social wellbeing, and cultural life of our city .
4. The DCC supports Otago Polytechnic's wish to be re-established as an independent ITP, which was its status before the formation of Te Pūkenga in 2020.
5. The DCC believes that Otago Polytechnic can demonstrate a "robust pathway" to financial and educational sustainability, as required in the proposed VET system redesign.
6. The DCC supports Otago Polytechnic in its view that being included in the proposed federation ration model would be detrimental to it, and pose risk to Otago Polytechnic's ability to be agile and responsive, and to make decisions at a local level.
7. The DCC wishes to make the following points in regard to other proposed changes in the consultation document:
 - The DCC does not support replacing Workforce Development Councils (WDC) with the proposed Industry Training Boards as these are not aligned with the NCEA Vocational Pathways programmes at secondary schools, are not inclusive of several sectors of importance to Dunedin, notably professional, scientific, and technical services, and do not offer a solution for industries where there are not existing industry associations.
 - the DCC notes with concern that current funding based on enrolments of learners with low prior attainment, disabled learners and Māori and Pacific learners is to be repurposed and that there is no new option proposed which supports these learners.
8. Thank you for taking the time to consider the DCC's submission.

Ngā mihi



Jules Radich
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN