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**Reform of Vocational Education key messages**

**06 August 2019**

1. **We are disappointed with the announcement**, however, the input from our employers and stakeholders during the consultation process, means Competenz is well placed to be fully involved in the design and implementation of the new system, and to advocate for our industries.

This design and implementation process has not yet been fully developed by officials. It will include changes to establish Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and the sectors that they will cover, as well as the transition arrangements for the arranging of training to be handed over to providers. We will be consulting with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and Ministry of Education (MOE) on the transition arrangements and will communicate more as this develops.

1. **Our priority is to continue to support learners to achieve their qualifications, and support employers to deliver training in the workplace.**

At this stage, nothing will change for our apprentices, trainees and employers, Competenz will continue to provide support through to the transition in the capacity of what the Minister has referred to as a ‘Transitional Organisation’. We don’t know yet which provider will be supporting our employers and learners beyond 2022, however, we are committed to ensuring the transition to any future provider is as smooth and seamless as possible. We will communicate more as this develops.

1. **It is important to Competenz to minimise the impact of this reform on industry,** with skill shortages that still need to be addressed, on-the-job training remains critical**.**
2. **We will continue to enrol new apprentices and trainees until the transition date in 2022.** We will also be working on ensuring a smooth transition to the new training provider for any existing learners that are part way through their qualification, when this time comes.
3. **We believe we have the capability to apply to become a WDC** and will be working with our industry stakeholders to determine what the logical industry groupings are for these councils.
4. **We are also exploring other opportunities within the new model,** including whether becoming a training provider could be an option for Competenz.
5. **Recruitment of people into our organisation will continue, as required.** It is critical to ensure we have experienced people to support our learners and employers.
6. **There is still a lot that has not yet been determined – we will continue to keep informing all stakeholders as more information is available.**