

Reform of Vocational Education

Summary

Minister Hipkins announced the Government's final decision on the proposed Reform of Vocational Education on 01 August 2019. At this point, it is a high-level decision document with further intensive design required over the next six months.

As part of the Government decision, summarised overleaf, four to seven industry-governed Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) will be established, with accountability for the standard setting function currently carried out by Competenz. This includes qualification development, unit standard development and moderation.

Seven key reforms announced by the Minister of Education on 01 August 2019

1. Create Workforce Development Councils

(WDCs): four to seven industry-governed bodies, to give industry greater leadership across vocational education. These will have accountability for skills leadership, standard setting, investment advice, moderation of assessment and employer brokerage. The vocational pathways will be used as a starting point for the industry groupings for WDCs.

2. Establish Regional Skills Leadership Groups

(RSLGs): RSLGs would provide advice about the skills needs of their regions to the Tertiary Education Commission, WDCs, and local vocational education providers.

3. Establish Te Taumata Aronui: A group to help ensure that the Reform of Vocational Education reflects the Government's commitment to Māori-Crown partnerships.

4. Create a New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology (the Institute):

A unified, sustainable, public network of regionally accessible vocational education, bringing together the existing 16 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs).

5. Shift the role of supporting on-the-job learning

from industry training organisations (ITOs) to providers after a transition period by December 2022.

6. Establish Centres of Vocational Excellence

(CoVEs): CoVEs will bring together the Institute, other providers, WDCs, industry experts, and leading researchers to grow excellent vocational education provision and share high-quality curriculum and programme design across the system.

7. Unify the vocational education funding system:

A unified funding system will apply to all provider-based and work-integrated education at certificate and diploma qualification levels 3 to 7 (excluding degree study) and all industry training.

What does the Government reform mean for employers, trainees, apprentices and Competenz?

- » In the short-to-medium term nothing will change. Competenz will continue as normal to support all existing and new employers, trainees and apprentices.
- » Competenz will become a holding organisation maintained to support existing, and new, trainees and apprentices until the end of 2022.
- » The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) will work with Competenz and our industries, to develop a transition plan over the next six months.
 - » This transition plan will cover the design and approval of the WDCs that will take over the existing standard setting functions of Competenz, including qualification development, unit standard development and moderation.
 - » It will also include transitional arrangements for training support currently provided by Competenz and the support of our existing learners.

Next steps and timeline

We believe Competenz has the skills and capability to apply to establish a WDC. It's important to note that the process for appointing WDCs and determining the structure of these new entities has not yet been determined. This will be communicated once we know more.

Below are the details we currently know.

14 Aug 2019	All ITOs met with MOE/TEC. The key outcomes of this meeting were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All ITOs will meet, to look at the possible coverage/industry groupings for WDCs (using the vocational pathways as a starting point) » Develop an objective process of consultation with industry on this » Eight weeks to complete consultation with industry
Aug – Sep 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Industry consultation on WDC structure
05 Sep 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Competenz bringing all industry associations, sector advisory groups and key employers together to workshop possible structures for WDCs » Competenz meeting with key employers and industry association Boards in August and September 2019, seeking input into the design
12 Sep 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Competenz, the Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA) and the Forestry Owners Association (FOA) are bringing together forestry industry associations, sector advisory groups and key employers to workshop possible structures for WDCs
End Sep /early Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Competenz industry consultation completed and presented to the MOE
Mid Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » MOE paper goes to the Minister
End Oct/early Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Minister Hipkins confirms industry groupings for WDC
Q4 2019 – Q1 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Process for appointing WDC's will be agreed and communicated
Apr 2020 – Jun 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » WDCs can be established, all WDCs in operation by June 2021.
Aug 2019 – Apr 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » MOE/TEC meeting with each ITO to agree transition plan and implementation of transitional organisations » Transition arrangements will be determined on a sector by sector basis for workplace-based training and support to be transferred to provider(s)
Apr 2020 – Dec 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Transitional organisations in place (potentially from April 2020) supporting workplace learning until the function is transferred to a provider, sometime prior to December 2022.

Legislation timeline

Aug 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Legislation goes to the Cabinet Legislation Committee » First reading
Sep 2019 – Mar 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Select Committee process » Second reading » Committee of the whole House » Third reading
End Mar 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Royal assent (Act comes into force)
01 Apr 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » NZIST is created as an entity
Apr 2020 – Jun 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » WDCs established.



Useful links for more information

competenz.org.nz/reform-of-vocational-education/
conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/reform-of-vocational-education/

Questions?

vet@competenz.org.nz



Competenz