



| Information Item | Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) update |
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| Sponsor: | CEO |
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June 2020

Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) update

On Thursday 14 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, announced the formation of all six Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) would be fast-tracked for establishment by a target date of October 2020, ahead of the original target of mid-2021, to help support New Zealand's COVID-19 recovery.

COVID-19 has resulted in unprecedented impacts on New Zealand industry, employers, learners and communities.

As a result, there is an urgent need for a strong, unified, sustainable vocational education and training system to help lessen the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

WDCs are at the heart of this system and their early influence will be critical in making sure that investment is well targeted and supports business growth alongside great careers.

Industry and employers have told the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) they want a stronger voice for training, for both current and future employees.

Fast-tracking all six WDCs ensures their voice can be part of designing the response to COVID-19.

As planned, the arranging training capability of transitional Industry Training Organisations will still move to providers and their standard setting function will move to WDCs.

However, there is no intent to bring forward the deadline for the transition of arranging training.

It may be that this transition is completed sooner than the deadline of 31 December 2022 in cases where transitional Industry Training Organisations want this process to move faster.

Six skills based WDC interim Establishment Boards, made up of industry members, will be appointed in June 2020 to help stand up the WDCs.

This is an important step as it brings industry voice and influence on the heart of the new system as quickly as possible.

An Expression of Interest (Eoi) process is now open until 2 June, and anyone who is passionate about vocational education, with strong governance experience and great communication and collaboration skills is welcome to apply.

Details about the EoI can be found [here](#).

Interim Regional Skills Leadership Groups are also being established.

Industries can engage at a local level to help these groups present the pressing labour and skills needs for their region.

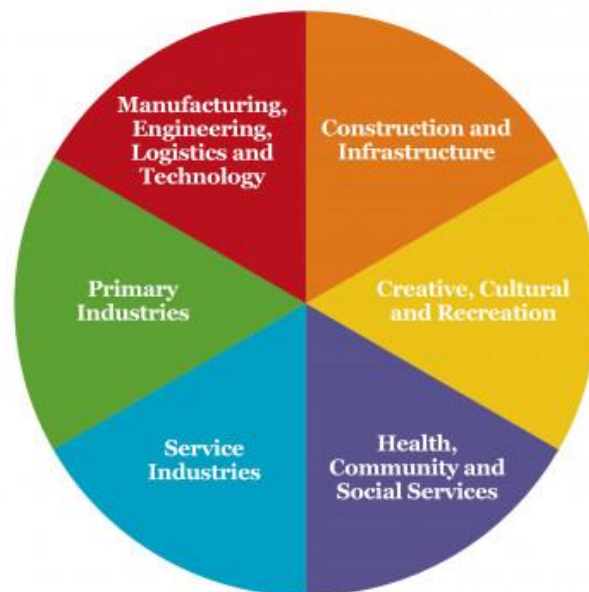
In addition, industries can work with their local New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology subsidiaries, PTEs and transitional Industry Training Organisations to ensure industry needs are being heard across the system.

The RoVE programme, including the WDC establishment and transitional Industry Training Organisation teams, is committed to working closely with Te Taumata Aronui; a group established to help ensure that RoVE reflects the Government's commitment to Māori-Crown partnerships.

There is a strong commitment to ensuring Māori and iwi are involved and able to provide input into the decisions made, including through the Order in Council (OIC) consultation later this year.

To achieve this, TEC is developing a dedicated Māori and iwi stakeholder communications and engagement tactical activity plan.

The Six Workforce Development Councils and their coverage



The decision around final coverage areas will be made by the TEC and confirmed through OICs.

Each WDC's industry coverage will be described down to Level 4 of the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification](#) 2006 in the OICs.

An OIC is needed to establish the WDC as a legal entity. The OIC covers some very high-level elements of the WDC, such as name, coverage and governance arrangements.

The establishment of WDCs was enabled by the passing of the *Education (Vocational Education and Training Reform) Amendment Act* on 1 April 2020.

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