

Defining Vocational Education and Training

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Vocational education and training provides the comprehensive foundation and ongoing innovation needed in broad fields of practice for professions and lifelong vocations. It does so through developing an awareness of self and culture, knowledge of practice, the technical base of practice, and the attributes needed for the integration of students into both professional life and society. This can be provided at all levels of education and includes research-based vocational bachelors and postgraduate degrees taught in institutes of technology and polytechnics.

The teaching and learning is based on applied research and the ongoing development and evaluation of applied, workplace, and community/iwi/hapū situated methods of teaching and learning. Students will be inspired to be lifelong learners, employees, employers, entrepreneurs, and to exercise their rights and obligations as citizens. This approach will enable them to participate in collectively addressing and advancing the major issues of their time (environmental, social, cultural, technological, and economic), including the ever changing needs of industries and the labour market.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the vocational education sector, like the tertiary education sector as a whole, has the responsibility to convey a deeper understanding of the shared Tiriti history of this country and to support and encourage innovative ways to practically implement the obligations agreed by the two Tiriti partners (iwi Māori and the Crown). The Tiriti relationship means our sector is also able to offer and develop unique teaching, learning and research practices of students and staff, and governance and management models that serve to strengthen our understanding of each other and the world we live in.

Vocational education and training is a powerful instrument that contributes to the full development of the human personality, social mobility, the reduction of inequality, and the betterment of society.

It's a great time to join to the TEU

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