

**TEU****TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION**
TE HAUTŪ KAHURANGI

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Honourable Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

31 July 2019

Tēnā koe Minister,

As you will be aware, the Chief Executive at Whitireia and WelTec has proposed to cut 27 programmes and over 70 jobs.

We think the proposed cuts on the eve of the RoVE announcement is unhelpful and unnecessary.

Your vision of a network of vocational education provision will be harmed by the cuts, which will slash around 20% of the teaching workforce from these important campuses in Porirua, the Hutt Valley and Wellington city.

The proposal includes the cutting of programmes like exercise science and early childhood education which are the only ones of their type in Wellington, and cutting a course for funeral directing, which is the only one in the country. The Counselling and Addictions programmes would reduce staff considerably - contrary to the Government's Wellbeing Budget expectations.

As Minister you have the power to ensure that our ITPs are in a sound and stable condition. Without stabilising the sector there may be little left to deliver on the well-being and educational objectives of the Labour government.

We urge you to immediately provide financial support to Whitireia and WelTec to stabilise the provision that exists currently.

We also ask again that you work with staff, students, iwi, and communities to find a better model of funding for tertiary education long term.

Naku iti noa, nā

Sharn Riggs, TEU National Secretary and Daniel Benson-Guiú, TEU Organiser