



Minister of Finance, Grant Robertson  
Parliament

15 November 2019

Kia ora Minister,

Tertiary education provision in all communities is crucial to advance a positive Future of Work programme, as well as the four well-beings – social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being.

But right now polytechnics are cutting courses and stripping learners of opportunities almost daily. This week alone staff and programmes have been cut from the Music and Audio Institute of New Zealand (MAINZ) - an SIT faculty) in Auckland and there is a proposal to cut horticulture courses and staffing at EIT, Napier.

In the last month, TEU has also watched as courses, programmes, and jobs have been cut from NMIT, MIT, Whitireia, and WelTec. Cuts are also underway at Unitec. Every time staffing is cut students, communities, and employers suffer.

While we are doing all we can to stop these course closures, including working hard to realise the Minister of Education's vision of a unified, high quality vocational education system, we desperately need your help.

We need to stabilise the polytechnic system now. We need to do this to ensure we have a solid platform on which to build the new vocational education system, including ensuring that the current provision of in-work training is maintained and that there is actually a place for In-work trainees and industry trainers to go in the new unified system.

On behalf of the members from Whitireia, WelTec, MIT, Unitec, MAINZ, and EIT we seek an urgent meeting with you. We have a proposal for stabilising the sector and would like the time to tell you why it is important that you and your Cabinet colleagues support Chris Hipkins' vision of a unified, accessible vocational education and training system.

Ngā mihi

Michael Gilchrist  
National President