

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

Ngā piki, ngā heke

Enduring through the highs and lows

There really are ups and downs in the creation of the new vocational education system. There is also lots happening, so here's a few of the key things on the go right now.

First up we welcome on board Stephen Town who has been appointed as the CE of the new institute. Currently in his final year leading the Auckland Council, Stephen will formally take up his new role on 6 July 2020. [In the press release](#) announcing his appointment Stephen said: "I'm honoured to take up this role and excited at the challenges ahead. Change leadership is our greatest opportunity and New Zealand's needs will require much greater agility from the vocational education and training sector in the next two decades.

Establishment kōrero

Members of the establishment team for the new national institute have been holding kōrero with staff at polytechnics later this week. The kōrero updates us all on progress to date, and a high-level overview of what will and won't change for ākonga/learners, staff, and organisations (both visibly and invisibly, when and by what processes). For more see testablishment.ac.nz/

Any questions or views at all from members to the meeting are welcome. If you feel that your voice was constrained in any way please let us know so we can sort a second meeting with members only.

At these meetings the establishment team are asking if the name Pūkenga Aotearoa is right for an institution where all can 'learn with purpose'. **From 14 February you will have two weeks to provide your feedback.**

What's next around employment agreements?

You will be seeing a letter which outlines that on day-one of the new institution (April 1) nothing will change in your collective agreement and individual terms and conditions, so this means all of your service will continue as well.

We will soon start having discussions with the establishment unit about what the future of our collective agreements will be in 2022. You will be fully consulted during this process.

Sadly it's also business as usual when it comes to ongoing rounds of restructuring and reviews as the funding system is two years away from being designed. But we are continuing to press the government to provide stabilisation funding for the new vocational education system and will keep you posted when we know more.

The Bill creating the new institute

The Bill creating the new system is back in parliament soon. Many of the changes we sought have been picked up so big congratulations to all of you who wrote submissions or spoke to the select committee.

Tū kotahi, tū kaha | Stronger together

teu@teu.ac.nz | 04 801 5098 | 178 Willis St, Te Aro, Wellington 6011

**TEU**TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION
TE HAUTŪ KAHURANGI

What we won together

- 1. Conditions requiring collaboration have been placed on workforce development councils (WDCs)** - the industry bodies replacing the ITOs. This addressed our concerns that these industry bodies were able to be a law unto themselves;
- We have **secured academic freedom for all staff and ākonga/learners in the new institution with regard to research and testing receive wisdoms** unconstrained. Yes, all tertiary education staff are now afforded both the right and responsibilities to exercise the critic and conscience function crucial to our society;
- The Bill originally stated staff in the new institute could engage in applied and technical research. **Our submissions have seen this extended to ALL research;**
- The select committee heard us loud and clear with regard the purpose of tertiary education and made explicit that **the network must provide 'lifelong learning opportunities'**;
- There has been a strengthening of the idea that **the system must be inclusive of all ākonga/learners;**
- The Bill now explicitly states that the **network will be providing foundations, vocational, degree, and postgraduate qualifications;**
- We raised concerns about **our connection and responsibilities to small employers.** This has been addressed with specific mention of the network working with small business; and
- The select committee is also recommending explicit recognition that **the network must ensure equity for ākonga/learners in regional communities.**

Next steps

- We will be working to get an amendment to the Charter to ensure as well as people, the new institute is required to think about the planet. You can help by signing and sharing our petition on climate action.
- We are continuing to push the government to further extend the academic freedom provisions. We have written again to the Minister of Education asking him to address the current imbalance between the rights of academic staff and industry leaders' right.

For both actions head to teu.ac.nz/campaigns/rove

- We will also be taking further action to #KeepItPublic and to make sure vocational education is delivered through public providers. This is the way we can ensure that it is accessible to all learners and communities. Keep an eye-out for action on teu.ac.nz/campaigns/keep-it-public
- Seeking further changes to the Bill is not all we are doing. We will be working to prepare a discussion paper on how in practice industry and the new vocational education institution could work together for the good of our ākonga/learners, communities, hapū, iwi, and employers large and small. Please let us know if you would like to work on this short paper.

The road to a vocational education system focused on ākonga/learners, hapū, iwi, and communities is not a straight one but all along the way our collective efforts are having an impact. We are holding the Minister to his word – the system cannot be designed or operate without our input.

Tū kotahi, tū kaha | Stronger together

teu@teu.ac.nz | 04 801 5098 | 178 Willis St, Te Aro, Wellington 6011