



Unitec
Institute of Technology
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIRAKA

REFORM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

SUBMISSION BY UNITEC FONO FAUFAUTUA

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Submission from Unitec Fono Faufautua

Reform of Vocational Education



The Fono Faufautua (the Fono) is a Pacific Advisory Group to the Unitec Council (commissioner at this point in time). The Fono provides advice from the Pacific perspective to the strategic thinking of Unitec. This submission is the Fono's views and perspectives of the proposals set out in the Reform of Vocational Education consultation documents.

Overall, the Fono supports the amalgamation of the administration of the sector under one overarching national organisation. This will decrease the duplication of certain tasks and provide alignment and consistency of implementation of systems and processes.

The amalgamation must consider how to address access and equity for Pacific learners. There will likely be some processes and practices that have proven to be successful for Pacific learners that can be applied across all sites of learning. It is not a simple "cut and paste" process, but an analysis of evidence of what works, or works best, and what

that might look like at each of the sites of learning.

The Fono supports the proposed Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE). There is room in the CoVE concept to develop and incorporate conditions for Pacific success to ensure all areas of teaching and learning are responsive to learners.

The Fono strongly supports the stronger links with employers. This aligns with the view that success is not the certificate or degree, success is the job in the individual's desired area. Success is better economic outcomes for the learner and their families. Developing stronger links with employers and increasing the on-job learning and training will strengthen the pathway to employment.

The Fono strongly recommends that there is a level of independence at each learning site that allows for creating meaningful partnerships with local stakeholders to ensure

the culture of the learning site best reflects the values and aspirations of the local communities. Additionally, that the national administrative organisation has the capacity to lead the growth of Pacific staff and ensure that all staff have the capability or are provided to grow their capability to support Pacific student success across the board.

In general, the Fono supports the proposed changes to the sector. There are areas within the proposals that the Fono believe more detail needs to be developed to ensure equitable access to educational and employment opportunities for Pacific learners. The Fono also recognises that the government's focus is on youth, however, there is scope in the proposed changes to take a deeper look at what conditions for success look like for Pacific learners who are returning to education.

