

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of Police

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Jenn Bestwick
Chair
Tertiary Education Commission
PO Box 27-048
Wellington 6141

Dear Jenn,

Determination of Design of Funding Mechanism: Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi

I am writing to advise you of the Determination of Design of Funding Mechanism: Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi, issued under section 419 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).

The determination is set out in the appendix of this letter and provides direction to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) on the design of Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi and high-level details of its operation.

This letter details further guidance on Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi that is not necessary for the specifics of the funding determination and should be used to help guide the implementation of the Fund.

Under section 422 of the Act, it is the TEC's responsibility to develop implementation details of Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi.

Additional context for the development of Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi

The purpose of Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi is to support the growth and development of te reo Māori proficiency through tertiary education, and support language revitalisation through the development and delivery of programmes that contribute to high levels of language proficiency. This will support the growth of intergenerational language transmission and support the building of a workforce that is proficient in te reo Māori, especially within the education workforce.

Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi will contribute to the Government's goals and strategies for te reo Māori language education as articulated in Maihi Karauna, Tau Mai Te Reo and the Tertiary Education Strategy.

Ngā mihi,

A blue ink signature of Hon Chris Hipkins.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

DETERMINATION OF DESIGN OF FUNDING MECHANISM: TE TAHUA O TE REO KAIRANGI

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Introduction and Statutory Authority

1. This determination, which is made under section 419 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), specifies the design of the funding mechanism for Te Tahua O Te Reo Kairangi (the Fund).

Purpose

2. The purpose of the Fund is to support:
 - a. the growth and development of te reo Māori proficiency through tertiary education; and
 - b. language revitalisation through the development and delivery of new or existing programmes that contribute to high levels of language proficiency.

Off-plan funding

3. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) must pay funding allocated through this funding mechanism under section 428 of the Act.

PART ONE: THE FUNDING MECHANISM

General Parameters

Effective period dates

4. This funding mechanism relates to funding provision that meets the criteria from 1 January 2023.
5. The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions before 1 January 2023 as required to give effect to this funding mechanism.

Eligible Organisations

6. The TEC may only fund a tertiary education organisation (TEO) under this funding mechanism if it is one of the following:
 - a. Te Pūkenga;
 - b. a private training establishment;
 - c. a wānanga; or
 - d. a university.

Eligibility programmes or qualifications

7. The TEC must ensure that the funding allocated to a TEO under this funding

mechanism is only used for:

- a. new programmes or qualifications in te reo Māori delivered at level 5 and above on the NZQF provision that either:
 - i. support high levels of proficiency; or
 - ii. will be delivered in immersion settings.
- b. existing programmes or qualifications in te reo Māori delivered at level 5 and above on the NZQF that either:
 - i. support high levels of proficiency; or
 - ii. are delivered in immersion settings; and
 - iii. constitute a material expansion and/or improvement of the existing programme (and not “business as usual” development or programme maintenance).

Available Funding

8. The amount of the Fund that can be spent will be set through the Government's annual budget processes.

Allocation of Funding

9. The TEC must develop a process for allocating funding to TEOs that:
 - a. is consistent with the purpose of the Fund;
 - b. is consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
 - c. contributes to the Government's goals and strategies of language revitalisation and the Government's education goals more generally; and
 - d. has regard to the Whakamātauirā Tō Reo Māori framework, the Language Proficiency Framework¹ developed by Te Taura Whiri I te reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) with the intention that learners progress through the framework levels toward higher levels of proficiency.
10. The TEC must develop a process for determining how to allocate funding for the programmes or qualifications that best meet the criteria in paragraph 7, and is consistent with paragraph 9.
11. The TEC must only provide funding from the Fund to eligible TEOs that are based in Aotearoa New Zealand that is in line with the purpose and eligibility criteria. Therefore, this excludes provision that is:
 - a. at NZQF level 4 and below, unless delivered as part of a programme, micro-credential or qualification at level 5 and above; and
 - b. at level 5 and above that is not te reo Māori provision and/or not delivered in

¹ See <https://en.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/lfe#Framework>

te reo Māori immersion settings.

PART TWO: FUNDING CONDITIONS

General conditions for off-Plan funding

12. The TEC must impose any conditions on funding allocated under this funding mechanism that it considers necessary to ensure that funding will achieve the purpose for which it has been allocated.

General conditions that the TEC must attach to funding

13. The TEC must attach the following specific conditions (detailed in paragraphs 14 to 22) on funding allocation under this funding mechanism.
14. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must meet and continue to meet the relevant eligibility criteria for TEOs specified in paragraph 6 of this funding mechanism.
15. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must ensure that the existing or new programmes for te reo Māori provision for which the funding is provided meet and continue to meet the criteria specified in paragraph 7 of this funding mechanism.
16. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must provide to the TEC a plan of how it will measure whether the programme is contributing towards the purpose of the Fund.

Performance expectations and reporting

17. The TEC must attach to funding any necessary funding conditions relating to the performance measurement and reporting requirements for TEOs that receive funding under this funding mechanism.

Responsible Use of Funding

18. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must use the funding:
 - a. lawfully and responsibly; and
 - b. in line with the purpose of the Fund; and
 - c. in a manner consistent with the appropriate use of public funds.

Recovery of over-funding

19. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that, if a TEO receives funding under this funding mechanism that is greater than it should have been, or that it was not entitled to receive, the TEO must treat the amount of the over-funding as a debt due to the Crown that:
 - a. is repayable on demand; and

- b. may be set-off against all or any funding, or any sum of money payable by the TEC to the TEO.

20. The TEC must provide the TEO with reasonable notice before exercising its right to demand repayment or set-off the debt against all or any funding.

Repayment of funding following revocation of funding approval

21. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that if, in accordance with clause 26, Schedule 18 of the Act, the TEC suspends or revokes some or all of a TEOs funding paid under this funding mechanism before that funding has been used or contractually committed towards the purposes for which that funding was provided, then the TEO must treat the unexpended or uncommitted portion of the funding as a debt due to the Crown and is:

- a. repayable on demand; and
- b. may be set-off against all or any funding, or any sum of money payable by the TEC to the TEO.

TEC Administrative Responsibilities

22. If a TEO receives funding under this funding mechanism that is less than it should have been, or less than it was entitled to receive, the TEC must treat the amount of the under-funding as a credit and pay the amount as soon as is reasonably practicable.