

Event backgrounder: Meeting with the Tertiary Education Commission Board and Chief Executive, Thursday 21 October 2021

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Gillian Dudgeon, Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery
Date:	19 October 2021
Reference:	E-21-00299

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to meet with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Board of Commissioners and Chief Executive, Tim Fowler, on Thursday 21 October 2021, from 3.30pm-4.15pm.
2. You have indicated that you have no specific agenda items to discuss with the TEC and that the meeting will instead be in the nature of a general catch up. Topics the TEC Board may like to discuss:
 - Tools to support a learner success framework outside of vocational education.
 - Vaccination approach for Tertiary Education.
 - Te Pūkenga transformation.
 - National Careers system strategy.
3. This backgrounder provides you with background information on the TEC Board and a brief outline of the topics that may be raised during the meeting.
4. We recommend that you release this event backgrounder in full.

About the TEC Board of Commissioners

5. The TEC Board currently has seven members. Biographies of the Commissioners are attached as Appendix 1.

Discussion topics

Discrepancy funding

6. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education sought feedback from the sector on a policy proposal to allow the Tertiary Education Commission to invest a small portion of existing funding in tertiary sector initiatives that supported the strategic goals of the Government.

7. After considering their feedback on the proposal, as Minister of Education you have advised the Ministry not to proceed with the current form of the proposal in 2022. The Board is committed to the long-term changes required to ensure learner success and to the need for flexibility in the way funding is used. They will likely want to engage you on this topic.

Vaccination approach for Tertiary – staff vs students.

8. Providers want to understand whether mandatory vaccination could be required on-campus in tertiary education, following the announcement that staff at schools and early childhood centres would be required to be vaccinated, with government signalling that tertiary settings were being reviewed.
9. The key themes from provider feedback to date are:
 - Different vaccination requirements for staff and students would be inappropriate for tertiary, as many of those on campus are in both categories.
 - They would like the Government and agencies to communicate information as early as possible to the sector to ensure providers are able to prepare for changes in policy. This includes clarity on what providers are permitted to ask staff about their vaccination status.
 - Clear messaging and engagement with students if there are significant changes to vaccination policy regarding students.
 - There are different challenges facing providers with potential mandatory vaccination of staff and student groups, with some providers having a large number of staff in the elderly vulnerable age group, and others who have campuses in areas with low vaccination rates.
 - They want to have an understanding on rules for staff on tertiary campuses where early childhood learning centres are on-site

RoVE and Te Pūkenga transformation

10. The Board has its Chair of the Audit Risk and Compliance Committee (Alastair McCormack) on the RoVE Programme Governance Board and is closely appraised of the RoVE progress and the work TEC is doing to change its operations/approach following on from RoVE. They are also acutely aware of the transformation challenge faced by Te Pūkenga.
11. You recently meet with Te Pūkenga on 6 October 2021. You may wish to update the Board on how those discussions went.
12. You may also want to provide the Board any feedback you had on the latest Te Pūkenga quarterly monitoring report to you (AM-21-00517 refers).

National Careers system strategy

13. TEC has worked with stakeholders to develop a scope, approach and timeline for the development of a National Careers Strategy.

An assessment of the current state of the system has commenced to help identify challenges and opportunities that should be addressed in the next phase of the work.



Gillian Dudgeon
Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery
Tertiary Education Commission

19 / 10 / 2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

21 / 10 / 2021

Appendix 1: Biographies of TEC Board



Jenn Bestwick, Board Chair

Jenn has extensive governance experience including roles at Ara Institute of Canterbury (formerly CPIT), Southern Response Earthquake Services and Development West Coast. She is a member of the NZQA Board. Jenn's leadership of CPIT during its merger with Aoraki Polytechnic established a high-level of credibility within the tertiary sector.

She is currently an associate with the Project Office, where she provides strategic and business case development capability. She has proven experience in strategic planning and in senior strategy management roles across the health, tertiary education, natural resource management, science and research, and tourism sectors.



Alastair MacCormick, Commissioner

Alastair has extensive experience in education and business and has been a Commissioner on our Board since June 2017. He is an Emeritus Professor of the University of Auckland, having been 14 years Dean of Business and Economics before becoming Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Over the last 15 years Alastair has been active with innovation in New Zealand, ranging across IT, biotech and health. Currently, he chairs Photonz Corporation Limited and Caldera Health Limited.

He was appointed to the NZ Government Innovation Board on its establishment in 2011 and continues as a member of the Callaghan Innovation Grants Committee.



Dr Wayne Ngata, Commissioner

Wayne has an intimate knowledge of the challenges Māori face in achieving equity and has exceptional understanding, qualifications and experience in Mātauranga Māori. He was previously Board Chair of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission), has been the Head of Mātauranga Māori at Te Papa Tongarewa, the Raukura / Chief Advisor Te Ao Māori at the Ministry of Education and a Principal Investigator with Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (New Zealand's Māori Centre for Research Excellence at the University of Auckland). He brings with him a high level of mana and will be a strong advocate for Māori learners.

Dr Ngata received the Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for service to Māori and education in the 2021 New Year Honours.



Vivien Sutherland Bridgwater, Commissioner

Vivien is an independent consultant specialising in brand strategy, change management, partnership development and strategic advocacy.

She has a strong background in senior management and governance, holding roles at Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) and Auckland University of Technology.

She also helped set up Mai FM



Nancy McConnell, Commissioner

Nancy has worked extensively across the construction, infrastructure and property industries, and has led initiatives focusing on empowerment through education, particularly improving success for Māori and Pacific people.

Nancy has worked extensively in external and internal communications leadership across the construction, infrastructure and property industries.

She has been part of corporate leadership teams; and established, directed and managed a public relations and communications business. She is part of a number of governance boards, primarily public-private partnerships focused on raising employment, training and learning outcomes for Māori and Pacific people.

Nancy leads Hawkins (part of Downer NZ) community initiatives which focus on empowerment through education, particularly improving success for Māori and Pacific people.



John Russell, Commissioner

John has three decades worth of experience as a secondary principal and has a great deal of knowledge about the transition from school to training and employment. He is passionate about the role of TEC.

Throughout his career in educational leadership John has been committed to achieving equity and excellence for all, with a particular focus on raising Māori achievement and building whole community capacity.

John has an ongoing role with Evaluation Associates, where he works with principals on strategic leadership and capacity building, developing culturally responsive teaching practice, and robust appraisal practices.

John spent 29 years as a secondary principal at Mana College, Kāpiti College and most recently Naenae College. He retired as principal of Naenae College in 2017.

John was the 2016 Kiwibank | Metlifecare Senior New Zealander of the year, in recognition of his contribution to the Naenae Community and to education.



Kirk Hope, Commissioner

Kirk is a qualified barrister and solicitor with extensive corporate management experience. He is currently Chief Executive of Business NZ. Kirk has had numerous government appointed roles where he has represented the views of businesses. Kirk has an extensive background in financial management and his ability to bring a depth of business and industry networks to the TEC Board will be a strong contribution.