

Event backgrounder: Information to support your visit to Southern Institute of Technology on Thursday 18 August 2022

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	9(2)(a), Manager Delivery and Projects
Date:	11 August 2022
Reference:	E-22-00439

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to visit Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) from 11.00am to 12.15pm on 18 August 2022, at 133 Tay Street, Invercargill.
2. This backgrounder provides you with information about SIT and matters that may be raised with you.
3. Biographies of Daryl Haggerty, Acting Chief Executive and Alison Broad, Chairperson of SIT Board are included as an Appendix.
4. We recommend this event backgrounder be proactively released following your visit.

About SIT

5. SIT was established in 1971. SIT is well known for their Zero Fees Scheme, initiated in 2001. They are the only tertiary institute in New Zealand to offer a provider-initiated tuition free education to New Zealand domestic students for study at all levels.
6. SIT offer over 250 programmes across campuses in Invercargill, Christchurch, Queenstown, Gore, Auckland and online through SIT2LRN Distance Learning.
7. Onno Mulder resigned as Chief Executive in early 2022, Daryl Haggerty is acting Chief Executive until December 2022.
8. When Te Pūkenga was established in April 2020, SIT became a subsidiary of it. Te Pūkenga plan to transition all Institute of Technology and Polytechnics (ITP) subsidiaries into Te Pūkenga, including SIT, by the end of October 2022.

Financial and Performance information

9. In 2022, as a Te Pūkenga subsidiary, SIT¹ has committed to delivery of 9(2)(b)(ii) across Student Achievement Component (SAC) and Youth Guarantee (YG). It is a category 2 EER provider.
10. 9(2)(b)(ii)
11. In 2021 SIT³ delivered 4,768 EFTS (Equivalent Full-Time Students) to 12,579 learners. Its largest delivery in 2021 was in Business Management (515 EFTS), Te Reo Māori (333 EFTS) followed by General Education, Nursing and Horticulture.
12. In 2021, 1,868 extramural EFTS were delivered out of a total 3,867 EFTS funded from SAC.
13. SIT⁴ has 70% course completion rates for 2021 which is below other Te Pūkenga subsidiaries.

Matters they may raise with you

14. In early August 2022, Te Pūkenga's acting-chief executive Peter Winder noted at Te Pūkenga's Select Committee hearing that SIT's Zero Fees Programme Policy would be reconsidered for 2024. SIT will maintain its zero fees programme for the 2023 academic year.
15. Mr Winder recently met with the Southland Mayoral forum and the Chief Executive of Invercargill City Council, and we understand you have discussed the feedback from these meetings with Mr Winder.

Questions you may like to ask

16. A new collaboration between Telford, SIT's agricultural campus and Southland dairy farmer Tangaroa Walker (the creator of Farm 4 Life) is providing dairy farm workers nationwide with the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification while they work. You may be interested in how this pilot is progressing. Feedback from the sector so far is that the Telford campus is performing well.
17. SIT continues to have a long-standing partnership with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. Their partnership continues to deliver a further range of courses into 2022. You may like to ask how this partnership is going for 2022.

¹ Data sourced from Qlik as at 10 August 2021.

² Data sourced from Monitoring & Crown Ownership, Tertiary Education Commission.

³ Data sourced from Qlik as at 10 August 2021.

⁴ Data sourced from internal Tertiary Education Commission document "EPI analysis tool, 2017 to 2021- Parity tracking and subsector comparisons".

9(2)(a)

Manager Delivery Directorate
Tertiary Education Commission

11 August 2022

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Appendix: Key Biographies

Acting Chief Executive: Daryl Haggerty



Daryl Haggerty was appointed Acting Chief Executive of SIT in May 2022. He was previously Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson: Alison Broad



Alison Broad was appointed Chair in April 2020. She has extensive experience in education, community initiatives and governance. She has a long history with SIT, having been a Business Studies tutor at then Southland Polytechnic followed by an early period on its Council.

Alison was the inaugural CEO of Southland REAP, served as a member of the NZ Commission for UNESCO, and has had extensive involvement in innovative education initiatives for women and girls. She is a former chair of Community Trust South and current Deputy Chair of the Southland Conservation Board.