Bulletin – Tertiary Providers and International

17th June, 2020

**New fund to keep apprentices in work**

The government today announced funding of up to $519.8 million to support apprentices and their employers to help protect the jobs of existing and new apprentices throughout the recovery from Covid-19.

The Apprenticeship Support Programme includes:

* Apprenticeship Boost initiative – a broad-based wage subsidy for employers to help them keep existing apprentices and employ new ones.
* Mana in Mahi – expanding the existing programme that supports at-risk people through an industry training pathway (including apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship training) and into long term sustainable work.
* Group Training Schemes – funding to ensure the existing seven schemes remain viable by enabling them to continue to employ apprentices and trainees and provide related services to host businesses.
* Regional Apprenticeships Initiative – support for displaced regional apprentices who have lost their jobs, initially focusing on Māori and Pacific Peoples.

Employers will be able to access support from one of the above (except the Group Training Schemes fund which is not available for individual employers) depending on the type of apprentice or pre-apprentice trainee they employ.

All employers who have an apprentice will be able to receive a base subsidy rate up to $12,000 per annum for first year apprentices and $6,000 per annum for second year apprentices through the Apprentice Boost Initiative. Mana in Mahi and some Regional Apprenticeships participants will get a higher subsidy to reflect the different level of need of the individual apprentices (or pre-apprentice trainees) involved.

For the Ministers press release, visit [beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/backing-businesses-upskill-new-zealand). For more information visit [Work and Income](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/appprentice-support/apprentice-support-programme.html).

**Pastoral care reporting**

Fortnightly pastoral care reporting was established during COVID-19 Alert Levels 4 and 3 to collect information about potential issues in student accommodation.  We appreciate tertiary education organisations working with the Tertiary Education Commission and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) during this time to provide timely information.

Now that we are in Alert Level 1, tertiary education organisations can engage more fully with students.  The fortnightly pastoral care report is no longer required.  However, we urge you to continue to inform the Code Administrator (NZQA) at code.enquiries@nzqa.govt.nz about critical incidents involving students.

NZQA has also released the Implementation Guidance for the Education (Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students) Interim Code of Practice 2019 (guidance).  This guidance is intended to help tertiary education organisations (TEOs) put the Interim Code into practice and achieve its outcomes. The Interim Code will remain in place until 1 January 2022 when a permanent Code will be introduced. The guidance is an optional tool to assist providers in understanding the requirements of the Interim Code and is [available on the NZQA website](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/interim-code-guidance).

Please note that fortnightly pastoral care reporting may resume should Alert Levels change.

**Free webinar - Tertiary teaching online**

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is hosting a free webinar on Friday 19 June 2020 at 12:00pm featuring New Zealand subject matter experts discussing being an effective, engaging teacher in the online space. Register by 4pm Thursday 18 June at <https://teaching-online-pedagogy-practice.lilregie.com/>.

This webinar supports the range of [resources and tools](https://www.tec.govt.nz/teo/working-with-teos/resources-and-support-for-online-delivery/new-zealand-online-expertise/) the TEC have gathered that may help TEOs continue with a dual mode of delivery.

**Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:**

For health advice, please refer to the Ministry of Health’s website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For Cross-agency information about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), including health advice and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

To keep updated on travel restrictions and visa information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wananga visit the Ministry of Education website <http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

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