



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



Vocational Education and Training – info for students & whānau

August 2025

From 1 January 2026 there will be changes to vocational education and training....

The Government has decided to:

- Disestablish Te Pūkenga
- Establish 10 polytechnics as stand-alone entities, with 4 remaining in Te Pūkenga and decisions on their future taken in the first half of 2026
- Establish 8 Industry Skills Boards (ISBs) to replace Workforce Development Councils
- Transition 9 Work-based Learning divisions to relevant ISBs for up to two years.

How do these changes affect me?

- The transition will begin in January 2026, and current programmes will continue during the changeover. Te Pūkenga and the Tertiary Education Commission will manage the transition to ensure continuity.
- Some changes to campus configurations and course availability may occur, but the goal is to ensure better access and quality across regions. You'll be informed well in advance of any changes.
- While some campuses may close, regional access and online learning options are expected to expand under the new model.

Where can I get information and support for making decisions?

- The Ministry of Education is responsible for updating schools at a national level and through its regional offices, while Polytechnics should be informing and engaging with schools in their communities. This includes around any effects for initiatives such as Trades Academies where schools and tertiary organisations work together.
- Continue to talk to your school's career advisor and your teachers about your career and study interests and options.
- Regular updates on the progress of the Redesign of the Vocational Education and Training System can be found on:
 - the Ministry of Education's website here:
 - [Redesign of Vocational Education and Training System - Ministry of Education](#)
 - the Tertiary Education Commission's website here:
 - [Changes to the vocational education and training \(VET\) system | Tertiary Education Commission](#)
- Helpful career information is also on TEC's [Tahatū Career Navigator](#) website.

What does this mean for the current pathways from secondary school to tertiary vocational education and training (VET)?

- The changes to VET do not involve making changes to how VET is delivered in schools. Secondary-tertiary programmes will continue.
- Some individual polytechnics may make decisions about their involvement in programmes like Trades Academies, but these will be made on a case-by-case basis. The Government is committed to supporting these secondary-tertiary programmes.
- Trades Academies enable secondary school students to learn both at schools and in tertiary providers. Some Trades Academies are led by individual schools and some by tertiary education organisations like polytechnics.

- Some polytechnics and work-based learning divisions who are involved in Trades Academies may take this opportunity to consider delivery changes and will work directly with schools. They may also take this opportunity to consider how they participate in the future.
- School-based VET programmes will continue but may be delivered through newly re-established regional polytechnics. Credits earned will still count towards qualifications. Schools will be kept informed of any changes to how training is delivered. The industry-developed standards that enable achievement of NCEA through vocational education and training will be maintained by Industry Skills Boards.
- As part of the Government's plan to overhaul NCEA, the Ministry is currently consulting on proposals to better integrate VET subjects into senior secondary qualifications which would provide an opportunity to strengthen the approach to VET in schools and kura, including building on effective services like Trades Academies.

Will there be opportunities for hands-on learning or apprenticeships in my local area?

- Changes to the entities responsible for work-based learning divisions will not be visible to apprentices and trainees, or employers, and the impact is expected to be minimal.
- Students wanting to take up apprenticeships or traineeships can continue to seek out these opportunities, confident that the on-campus learning elements will continue to be delivered either in the classroom or online, or a mix of both.
- All regions are expected to offer a mix of both on-campus and off-campus (in-job) learning options.

How can I have certainty before I enrol in a polytechnic?

- Polytechnics will know what their core programmes will be going forward as a result of the financial improvement work, and which programmes are going to be closed. Any programmes that are closed will be taught through to the end of the course. It is normal for tertiary institutions like polytechnics to change programmes from time to time and they have systems to ensure learners are looked after when that happens.

- The TEC and New Zealand Qualifications Authority are responsible for monitoring and quality assurance across all programmes and qualifications. Learners and employers can have confidence that oversight will be maintained.
- As part of their usual business process, TEC has funding available to support VET training and this includes new courses or training programmes which meet their funding criteria, and which could be delivered by Wānanga and private training establishments as well as polytechnics.

What will there be for learners who require additional support (i.e. disabled or disadvantaged learners)

- All providers will continue to receive funding based on the number of disabled learners and learners with low prior achievement before they enrol.

