



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

## Report: VET legislation: Talking points for Cabinet Legislation Committee

To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Vocational Education		
Date:	2/05/2025	Deadline:	6/05/2025
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	High
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### Why are we sending this to you?

- This paper provides you with talking points for your discussion of the Cabinet paper '*Education and Training (Vocational Education and Training System) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction*' at the Cabinet Legislation (LEG) Committee on 8 May 2025.

### What action do we need, by when?

- Advise officials if you need any additional talking points for your appearance at LEG by 6 May 2025.

## Alignment with Government priorities

1. This report supports the progress of legislation to implement the redesign of the vocational education and training (VET) system, which is one of your priorities.

## Background

2. The attached talking points (Annex One) are intended to support your conversations with Ministerial colleagues at LEG.
3. These talking points outline the major aspects of the proposals set out in the Bill, and/or the aspects of the VET system that you may wish to emphasise at LEG.

## Key points

4. The LEG paper seeks approval to introduce the Education and Training (Vocational Education and Training System) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
5. The Bill amends the Education and Training Act 2020 to redesign the vocational education and training (VET) system by disestablishing the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga), re-establishing a network of regional polytechnics, and establishing Industry Skills Boards to replace Workforce Development Councils.
6. The Bill has priority two in the 2025 Legislation Programme (must be passed by the end of 2025).
7. The Bill is substantial in size and of high complexity. The LEG paper sets out the significant proposals to be enacted by the Bill.

## Next Steps

8. Please advise officials if you require any additional talking points for your appearance at LEG on 8 May 2025.
9. We will provide your office with the House pack, including supporting materials for the introduction and first reading of the Bill, next week. We have requested to schedule a time for officials to go over the House pack materials with you, as is standard practice to prepare for the first reading and responding to questions in the House.
10. The current expected timeline for progression of the Bill is set out below:

Milestone	Estimated timeframe 2025
Consideration by Cabinet Legislation Committee	8 May
Cabinet approval	12 May
Bill introduced	13 May
First reading and referred to Select Committee	From 15 May

## Annexes

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex One: Talking Points – Key Messages

**Annex withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.**

## Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** the talking points attached at Annex One
- b. **agree** to advise officials if you need any additional talking points for your appearance at LEG

Noted

Agree / Disagree

### Proactive Release:

- c. **agree** that the Ministry of Education releases this paper after the Bill has been introduced, as part of the communications strategy for the announcement of those decisions, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Rachel Dillon

**Programme Manager**

**Tertiary Education & Evidence**

2/5/2025



Hon Penny Simmonds

**Minister for Vocational Education**

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