



Reform of Vocational Education

A submission from Te Rūnanga-a-iwi o Ngāpuhi

Submission from: Te Rūnanga-a-iwi o Ngāpuhi

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He mea hanga tōku whare, ko Papatūānuku te papa rahi.
Ko ngā maunga ngā poupou, ko Ranginui e tū iho nei, te tuānui.
Pūhanga-tohora titiro ki Te Ramaroa e whakakurupaeake rā i te Hauāuru.
Te Ramaroa titiro ki Whiria, te Paiaka-ō-te-riri, Te kawa ō Rahiri.
Whiria titiro ki Panguru ki Papata ki ngā rākau tūpatapata e tū ana ki te Hauāuru.
Panguru, Papata titiro ki Maungataniwhā
Maunga Taniwhā titiro ki Tokerau e kī a nei a Ngāti Rēhia, he ripo kau, he ripo kau.
Tokerau titiro ki Rākaumangamanga.
Rākaumangamanga titiro ki Manaia, e tu kōhatu mai ra i te akau.
Manaia titiro ki Tutāmoe, Tutāmoe titiro ki Maunganui.
Maunganui taiāwhio atu tō titiro ko Pūhanga Tohora ko ia tēnei ko Te Whare-tapu o
Ngāpuhi
Ehara aku maunga i te maunga nekeneke, he maunga tū tonu, tū te Āo tū to Po.
Ko te whare tapu o Ngāpuhi tenei, tihei mauri ora

A. GENERAL POSITION

1. Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi makes this submission as the only mandated iwi organisation able to officially represent Ngāpuhi.
2. Our responses to the ‘Reform of Vocational Education’ report are set out in section B.
3. **Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi wishes to be heard** in support of this submission.

Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi

4. Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi (‘the Rūnanga’) was incorporated as a charitable trust on 28 April 1989, and is registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957. It was established for all people of Ngāpuhi descent and is rooted firmly to Ngāpuhi tikanga and cultural values.
5. The Rūnanga is accountable to Ngāpuhi and is guided by the principles and powers embodied in the Trust Deed ‘to receive, hold, manage and administer the Trust Fund for every charitable purpose benefiting Ngāpuhi¹. The Rūnanga represents 68,000 registered members and increasing. In 2013 New Zealand Statistics confirmed 125,601 Maori affiliated to Ngāpuhi.
6. Ngāpuhi are the largest iwi in Aotearoa with a population of 125,601².
7. Through our ten takiwa and guided by the wisdom of our Kaumātua and Kuia we are able to reach out across the sacred house of Ngāpuhi to over 110 hapū and their Marae.

¹ Clause 3.1 and 3.2 of the Trust Deed www.Ngāpuhi.iwi.nz

² 2013 Census, Statistics New Zealand

- Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki Whangārei
- Te Rōpū Takiwā o Mangakāhia
- Ngāpuhi ki to Hauauru
- Ngāpuhi Hokianga ki te Raki
- Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga
- Te Runānga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga
- Ngāti Hine
- Ngāpuhi ki Waitematā
- Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki to Tonga o Tāmaki Makaurau

8. With three subsidiary entities, the structure of **Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi** provides the appropriate backdrop to support the development and delivery of benefits and services to Ngāpuhi³:

- Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services
- Te Hau Ora o Ngāpuhi
- Ngāpuhi Asset Holding Company

B. Response to ‘Reform of Vocational Education Report’

1. Education is a critical component of our Ngāpuhi strategy going forward - we make this submission to ensure the desires and aspirations of our Ngāpuhi whānau are expressed and encapsulated into this report.
2. Relationships between the Crown and Ngāpuhi have never been equal.
3. If the Crown is genuine about the inequity in education between Ngāpuhi and Pākehā tamariki within the current education system, they will listen, better understand and action our recommendations.
4. Relationships with Mana Whenua are critical and Mana Whenua leadership must be involved in the co-design of the new ITP model.
5. Ngāpuhi recognise that the NZ Institute of Skills and Technology will be an agent of the Crown and must therefore uphold and give effect of the Crown’s responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
6. As Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners (not stakeholders or ethnic groups), we do not want to be “consulted”, we want this relationship to be in collaboration with: co-governance, co-design, equal decision making and equal power sharing.
7. Ngāpuhi expect adequate provision and representation of iwi and mana whenua to be engaged at the inception and have regular and meaningful input at all decision-making phases and levels.
8. Ngāpuhi mita is our taonga that must be developed further and protected. Adequate provision needs to be made to increase the capability and capacity of leaders and teachers. Our taitamariki must have access to the best provision of Ngāpuhi mita.

³ Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi website www.Ngāpuhi.iwi.nz

9. **Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāpuhi** challenge the lack of acknowledgment and reference to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within this report.
10. Tertiary and Vocational Education pathways have underserved Ngāpuhi taitamariki to the extent that our annual income is \$21,700. Although this report addresses some structural changes it does not address the attitudinal cultural change.
11. Our recommendations below are specific to Ngāpuhi. These are set out according to the 3 proposals within the “Reform of Vocational Education”.

Proposal 1: Redefined Roles for Industry Bodies and Education Providers

Despite the resource that has gone into the formation of this report, and the lack of oversight and acknowledgment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Ngāpuhi are failing to see how these reforms will benefit Ngāpuhi. We are particularly concerned at the absence of addressing inequity in this report. As Te Tiriti O Waitangi partners, these are some of our recommendations that address some of these issues:

- Ngāpuhi expect adequate provision and representation of iwi and mana whenua to be co-partners at the inception and have regular and meaningful input at all decision-making phases and levels. This means co-design, co-decision making, and co-governance.
- At least 30% of mana whenua are represented in Governance level.
- The Ngāpuhi Education strategic plan is prominent in the Tai Tokerau Industry Skills Bodies and Education Providers documentation and activated in practice.
- Kawenata between Ngāpuhi and Industry Skills Bodies.

There is no clarity as yet about what skills will be required in the future and whether it is realistic to expect the current workforce to be able to be appropriately up-skilled. This is needs to be an area of focus. The current system is currently more focused on enabling labour force entry, rather than ensuring ongoing participation.

Proposal 2: Proposals for the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology

Ngāpuhi expect adequate provision and representation of iwi and mana whenua to be co-partners at the inception and to have regular and meaningful input at all decision-making phases and levels. This means co-design, co-decision making, and co-governance.

We can see the logic for wanting to reduce the number of ITPs and removing areas of cost duplication. This would also create one body to oversee consistent pathways from secondary school, through pre-trade courses (for those who might need them) to apprenticeships in vocational qualifications covering certificate to degree level.

However, large centrally controlled organisations tend to be less agile and responsive to Tai Tokerau needs. Our region tends to be overlooked or, an onslaught of service providers that have little or no

effect on our Ngāpuhi economy which contributes to our low annual income. As proposed Regional Leadership Groups would be advisory only, there is a risk that our needs will be overlooked, as our local context will not be fully understood. We therefore recommend that Regional Leadership Groups are 1) co-governed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners, and key industry players; and 2) have decision making powers regarding programme development, delivery and overall spend for the Tai Tokerau region.

Further to this, we recognise the diverse difference in need within Te Tai Tokerau.

We therefore also recommend that any Regional Leadership Group created for Tai Tokerau should be based in Kaikohe, which is a central point for Northland. Kaikohe is in need of a boost in its economy, education and employment opportunities. A move to locate this Regional Leadership Group, and its administration functions, to Kaikohe would certainly lend itself to boosting the regions economic growth. It also aligns with the growth of the Industrial Park being developed in Ngawha.

Proposal 3: A Unified Vocational Education Funding System

We agree that the current funding system is complex and would welcome simplification of it. We also agree that this must be done carefully in order to create the right incentives.

Funding must favour those courses which provide the skills that Tai Tokerau and Aotearoa requires, as identified by employers via the Industry Skills Bodies. This would help to mitigate the current situation where demand for courses is not aligned with regional or national needs, ie. There may be much higher demand from students than the anticipated requirement.

We recommend that consideration be given to subsidising the cost to employers of taking on apprentices.

Consideration should be taken to providing funding support for mid-career retraining. This is not something that employers are likely to invest in unless it is directly related to their business requirements and, as we understand it, employees are currently unable to access any individual financial support.

CONCLUSION

The proposal to merge all 16 Polytechnics into a single mega-polytechnic does not lend itself to the provisional growth strategies being implemented around Aotearoa. We have received very little data that demonstrates how Ngāpuhi will benefit from a single mega-polytechnic. Furthermore, we have even less data on why it is Industry Training Organisations (ITO's) are being removed.

As Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners, our relationship with government must ensure any reformed education system meets our needs. The consultation process to arrive at a single mega-polytechnic falls well short of this commitment.

The current system is failing our whānau with the proposed alternative falling well short of meeting our expectations and neglecting the government's fundamental Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. We would go further to suggest that this falls short of investing in the improvement of our living standards.



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