

February 2010

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Message from the President



Dear Members

Welcome to the first PEPTalk of 2010. I want to extend a very warm welcome to all our members and to wish you a wonderful and fruitful New Year as we remain committed to ongoing hard work, inspiration, creativity and commitment to the learners in our institutions. I especially welcome new members to the Association.

The New Year has heralded change with the appointment of a new Minister for Tertiary Education, the Honourable Steven Joyce. We look forward to working with him and I am sure that the good relationship that we have built with the Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, will serve as a solid foundation for ongoing work with him. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Hon Anne Tolley for her commitment to our sector. The regular meetings we have had during 2009 have been immeasurably beneficial and I am sure that this will continue to be the case with the new Minister.

2010 also sees the new Tertiary Education Strategy (TES). Very slight changes have been made from the draft TES considering the comprehensive consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Education. For example, the core roles of PTEs have not changed. In our submission NZAPEP made the point that the PTE core roles were restrictive and that there is a comprehensive overlap with the core roles of Polytechnics. The core roles of both the PTEs and the Polytechnics in effect remain interchangeable. While this may not be a bad idea, a more adequate description of the core roles of PTEs was expected.

On the whole, the TES is an improvement on previous strategies because it is concise, and sets out clear policy direction and priorities to improve educational and financial performance of providers. This has the potential to streamline funding and reduce unnecessary compliance. A product at the height of the economic recession, it is however pragmatic rather than inspirational with its focus on transitions and lifting basic skill levels of all adult learners. This has been done at the expense of

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directing resources that are needed to push for excellence of higher skills other than basic ones. In addition, without additional funding the priorities are not likely to be met successfully. It will be interesting to see if there is any change to the funding of tertiary education in the May Budget and whether the fact that the country starts its upward trend from the recession will see a relaxation of some of the restrictive policies that dominate our landscape. NZAPEP will continue to lobby for some easement on the tight funding cap that the private tertiary sector finds itself in and to further explore innovative ways that could bring about this easement.

The Board will have its first meeting this month and a major part of that will focus on the strategic direction for the year. We will keep you informed in due course. Finally, as your President, I look forward to working with you and for you, during 2010.

Regards



Edwige Fava
NZAPEP President

NZAPEP Board News

The first meeting for 2010 of the NZAPEP Board will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 16 February.

At this meeting the Board members will consider their Portfolios and how these will be managed to ensure that the various areas of the Annual Plan are covered and completed.

Portfolio have been allocated as following:

Edwige Fava:	President, Media, Liaison & Strategic Leadership, Political Lobbying, Position Statements, Financial, Strategic & Annual Plans, Code of Ethics & Rules
Karl Yates:	Vice-President, TEC & StudyLink & Industry Training
Dr Mike Roberts:	Vice-President, NZQA, Quality Assurance, International, Immigration, Degree and Research
Fiso John Fiso:	Maori & Pasifika, Ako Aotearoa, PTE Sector Research, NZAPEP Awards
Keith Heathcote:	Conference, Regional Meetings & Workshops
Cyril Shaw:	Foundation Learning & Literacy & Numeracy
Margie Sorensen:	Membership Services, Membership & Marketing
Christine Clark	Assisting Portfolios such as NZQA, Foundation Learning, TEC and Industry Training.

Members will consider a report on Conference 2010, Regional Forums and Workshops and the Quality Commission Scheme.

Meeting dates for 2010 have been set for:

- Wednesday 7 April 2010
- Wednesday 16 June 2010
- Wednesday 11 August 2010
- Tuesday 7 September 2010
- Wednesday 20 October 2010
- Wednesday 1 December 2010

New Minister for Tertiary Education

The Prime Minister announced last week the appointment of a new Minister for Tertiary Education, Hon Steven Joyce, to replace the Hon Anne Tolley who will be focussing on her portfolio of Education.



Mr Joyce added the tertiary education portfolio to his existing roles as Minister of Transport and of Communications and Information Technology, and Associate Minister of Finance and of Infrastructure.

The new Minister is a relative newcomer to Parliament, having been elected in 2008. He has a zoology degree from Massey University and was previously managing director of the RadioWorks company, which he sold to Canwest media company in 2001. Since then he has managed two election campaigns for the National Party, and acted as a consultant for John Key.

NZAPEP welcomes the Hon Joyce in his new role and looks forward to working with him for the betterment of the private tertiary education sector and indeed the entire tertiary education sector.

OfficeMax Launch New Workplace Technology Product Range

On 1 February 2010 OfficeMax launched an expanded offer in the technology product area.

As part of this launch, they have produced the first edition of a new OfficeMax Workplace Technology catalogue which includes information of some new products and services that are now available through OfficeMax.

Additionally, most items the Technology catalogue are priced enabling buyers to see market pricing on a wide range of items including:

- Cameras – digital and video plus accessories
- Computers and notebooks
- Printers, scanners, faxes and their consumables
- Monitors and ergonomic products
- Storage media
- Electronic and interactive whiteboards

The lifespan of technology products are short and the 2nd edition of the Technology catalogue is due out in June 2010. OfficeMax are also expanding the range of technology products available online at www.officemax.co.nz

Members may have already received a copy of this new catalogue. If anyone has not yet received a copy, please E-Mail Joanne Sinclair at Joanne.Sinclair@officemax.co.nz and copies will be sent to you.



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Letters to the Editor

NZAPEP welcomes letters to the editor and comment on articles. These should be addressed to PEPTalk at: exec@nzapep.co.nz

NZAPEP reserves the right to not print, or to abridge any letter. However comments and opinions are always welcome, as is news about NZAPEP members.

Withdrawal of Registration from Private Training Establishments

In December 2009 the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) withdrew registration as a private training establishment from the New Zealand Academy of Studies, of Auckland, following an investigation into the fraudulent issuing of a qualification.

The Appeals Committee of the NZQA Board confirmed the decision on Friday, 18 December.

The NZQA investigation followed an *Illegal NZ* programme screened on TV2 on 20 August which showed an unnamed private training establishment selling a NZ Diploma of Business qualification.

As a result of the investigation, NZQA was no longer satisfied that NZAS was a suitable body to be registered, and in August 2009 NZQA gave notice of its intention to withdraw registration from NZAS. After considering NZAS submissions, NZQA moved to cancellation of registration in September 2009.

Under NZQA processes, the provider had 10 working days to appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee of the Board and elected to do so. This hearing was held on 11 December.

Throughout the process, NZQA acted to ensure the needs of students were addressed.

NZAS has ceased to operate as a training provider and all affected students have been provided with access to alternative providers to continue their studies.

NZQA Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance, Tim Fowler said the decision should send a strong message to private training establishments. He said that the vast majority of providers are delivering quality education outcomes for students, but it is important that the industry is aware that any evidence of inappropriate, or fraudulent, activity by training establishments will result in strong action by NZQA.

Further to this in January 2010 registration was withdrawn from another PTE in Auckland, City Language Academy Ltd.

NZQA said that Auckland's City Language Academy Ltd had advertised that it offered authority-approved courses, which it was not accredited to do. It taught English language and catered to Chinese pupils; 17 were enrolled when it was deregistered.

NZAPEP applauds the action taken by NZQA and is firmly behind the authority taking such action when it is proved that a PTE is engaging in illegal and fraudulent activities.



Good Practice Approach to External Evaluation and Review

The following good practice 'techniques and approaches' have been developed by Croydon Consulting for PTEs to use before and during a NZQA External Evaluation and Review.

Ensure all stakeholders involved in the Evaluation have a 'shared vision' and 'common understanding' of the organisation's purpose, strategic direction and strategic plan.

Take a positive, proactive approach and 'front up' to any serious issues before the External Evaluation takes place, by implementing a documented Improvement Plan or remedial action.

Adopt a strengths-based approach and ensure that the organisation's special character, distinctive contribution and associated strengths are recognised and valued.

Be open and honest, act in 'good faith' and ensure that your comments are focused and considered, and are consistent with the values, mission and strategic direction of the organisation.

Adopt an evidence-based and outcomes-focused approach – support the PTEs key achievements and outcomes with valid, reliable, documented evidence and detailed examples.

Be aware that the External Evaluation and resulting Statements of confidence, are based on NZQA's inquiry into only a small number of 'targeted sample activities' (called Focus areas) within the PTE – so ensure that the sample Focus areas selected for the Evaluation are 'appropriate' and 'representative' of the organisation's activities.

Challenge any poor quality evaluation practice by NZQA (including any unnecessary changes to the Evaluation Scope or any 'surprises' in the draft Report); and dispute any Future Actions/Recommendations in the Report that you consider to be impractical or unsustainable.

Treat the Evaluators professionally, respectfully and courteously during the External Evaluation (and expect the same treatment in return), especially when clarifying or questioning NZQA's evaluation practice/ methods or any findings in the Evaluation Report.

Be prepared to: question NZQA on their use of any invalid evidence, challenge any judgements based on personal opinion –instead of the evaluation criteria, and contest any NZQA 'Performance/Capability Ratings' in the draft Report that are not supported by verifiable evidence, sound reasoning and common sense.

Ensure that NZQA's Report adopts a balanced, strategically focused, holistic approach, and that NZQA's 'Statements of confidence/ Key reasons' are logical, consistent and reflect the PTE's context, special character and purpose.

Treat the Evaluation as an independent, fresh perspective, and an opportunity to learn and inform/focus the organisation's own Self Assessment and planning for continuous improvement.

Written by Peter Keith, Education Management Consultant, for Croydon Consulting Ltd.
Source : Croydon Consulting Website. www.croydonconsulting.co.nz

I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life.
- [George Burns](#)

NZAPEP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

Preparations for the only private tertiary sector Conference are well advanced.

Conference 2010 will be held at the Grand Chancellor, Cashel St, Christchurch on 8 and 9 September 2010, with an additional and optional Workshop day on Friday 10 September.

The NZAPEP Board has worked hard to ensure that the conference fees for 2010 will remain the same as 2009 with no deterioration in either the calibre of speakers or the quality of the venue.

A number of speakers have already been engaged and others have been written to. It is expected that the number of Trade Stands will be similar to 2009. The Grand Chancellor has offered very good rates for accommodation and those attending are urged to register as soon as registrations open to take advantage of the early-bird rates.

The theme of the conference is "**PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATION – *the way forward.***"

NZAPEP members are invited to forward any suggestions regarding breakout sessions to either Keith Heathcote, NZAPEP Board Member at keith@nzapep.co.nz or Chuck Wareham, Executive Director at chuck.wareham@nzapep.co.nz as soon as possible.

Registrations will open shortly. More on the draft programme is available at www.nzapep.co.nz

Events Attended

25 November 09 - NZAPEP Regional Meeting, Auckland - Keith Heathcote and Dr Mike Roberts

26 November 09 - Meeting with Hon Anne Tolley - Edwige Fava, Dr Mike Roberts, Karl Yates and Chuck Wareham

26 November 09 - NZAPEP Regional Meeting, Tauranga - Keith Heathcote

2 December 09 – NZAPEP Executive Meeting and NZAPEP Board Meeting - Edwige Fava, Dr Mike Roberts, Karl Yates, Cyril Shaw, Margie Sorensen, Keith Heathcote, Christine Clark and Chuck Wareham

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NZQA New Online Services

If you haven't already heard, NZQA has just launched a new selection of online services for tertiary education organisations which can be accessed via the NZQA website.

Providers who register to use TEO Self Service can do the following:

- Submit a variety of applications online such as Course Approval & Accreditation and NQF Accreditation;
- Maintain and view information which may include organisation and key contact details, contact details of governing bodies, and EFTs for non-TEC funded courses;
- Upload compliance paperwork electronically such as accountant attestations, annual returns, and financial statements.

There are benefits of signing up to use the online self services. Not only is it likely to speed up the processing time for qualification approvals, it will reduce the time and complexity associated with fulfilling compliance obligations such as maintaining contact information and submitting annual return paperwork.

To become a user of TEO Self Service, you must register. Follow these quick and easy steps and your access will become active within 5 working days:

If you are:

Then:

An existing user of the NZQA extranet

Complete fields marked with an asterisk (*) beside them on the *Request for User Setup and Access Form*. Click on this [link](#) or follow this path to access the form: <http://cms.steo.govt.nz> F ESAA

Have your form authorised by your organisation's authoriser (CEO or equivalent) or their delegate and return it to the Sector Service Desk

A new user of the NZQA extranet

Complete the *Request for User Setup and Access Form*. Click on this [link](#) or follow this path to access the form: <http://cms.steo.govt.nz> F ESAA

Have your form authorised by your organisation's authoriser (CEO or equivalent) or their delegate and return it to the Ministry of Education Sector Service Desk

If you have any questions about TEO Self Service, call either Ciaran Hyslop on (04) 463 3266 or Abby-Sian Gyde on (04) 463 3376 from the Administration team at NZQA.

Survey, Regional Forum and Roadshows

NZAPEP members will be aware that in 2009 NZAPEP held a number of Regional Forum throughout the country.

These meetings were designed to give attendees access to first-hand information from government agencies and also to act as informal networking sessions.

These have proven to be very successful with numbers at one forum in Auckland topping 90.

NZAPEP will continue to run these forum in 2010 along the same format as earlier and we will try and get additional speakers to vary the content as the need arises.

In addition NZAPEP is going to host three half-day Roadshows in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland and we have commitments from NZQA, TEC, Immigration NZ that they will offer speakers. We are waiting on responses from other agencies as well.

In an effort to gauge what attendees would like to get out of both the Regional Forums and the Roadshows NZAPEP is currently conducting a survey of all NZAPEP members and those who have attended the Regional Forum.

The Survey closes at 5 pm on 12 February and NZAPEP members are reminded that their feedback is vital if we are to give members what you want. In addition the Survey has some questions on Conference which will assist with the format of sessions.

To access the Survey please click on the following link or copy and past it into your browser:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22A5LEV8FWG>

Remember this survey closes at 5 pm on Friday 12 February.

New Tertiary Education Blog at www.ed.co.nz

A new blog on tertiary education has been launched at www.ed.co.nz.

ED Blog is for people working in and around NZ tertiary education who care about policy, strategy and results.

The best blogs are part of a community and a gap exists for a tertiary education community in the demise of the weekly *NZ Education Review* paper in late 2009. So ED Blog will be encouraging guest bloggers and occasional opinion pieces from across the tertiary education sector, ensuring that people can continue to discuss the sector's issues. ED Blog will also be seeking views from sector groups on major issues and sharing them with readers. The main blogger is Dave Guerin.

You can check out the site or keep up to date on RSS (subscribe at www.ed.co.nz), Facebook (search for "ED" Page) or Twitter (@eddirections).



Contact Details for the 2010 NZAPEP Board

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Correspondence to Members

- 11 December 09 - NZ Higher Education Summit 2010
- 12 December 09 - NZAPEP - Seasons Greetings
- 16 December 09 - NZQA Review Summaries - November 2009
- 18 November 09 - TEC Now - Season's Greetings From TEC
- 23 December 09 - Minister Releases Tertiary Education Strategy
- 23 December 09 - Withdrawal of Registration from Private Training Establishment
- 23 December 09 - Tertiary Education Strategy Released
- 18 January 2010 - Casual Employees and Public Holidays
- 19 January 2010 - Courses & Careers Information
- 22 January 2010— Courses & Careers – Booking deadline Closes 15th February
- 26 January 2010—New Zealand Association of Private Education Providers - Survey
- 26 January 2010—New Minister for Tertiary Education
- 27 January 2010 - E-News - 26 January 2010
- 1 February 2010 - PTE Forum 17 February 2010



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