

June 2011

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## Message from the Executive Director



Dear Members

Welcome to the June PEPTalk. With so many things on the boil, I will try and summarise some of them in this newsletter.

In this year's Budget, the major allocations were for Health and Education. For the first time a Budget allocated additional places to new and high performing PTEs. Overall the Budget reflects the Government's policy of levelling the playground between public and private sectors with a focus on outcomes, irrespective where students study.

In sum, there were the 750 additional places for PTEs, increases for ESOL, the wider Youth Guarantee, additional training places for Christchurch, and an increase in the degree subsidy rates. A maximum fee limit for pilot training programmes has been set and restrictions to student loans were also made, which are likely to affect those PTEs with solo flying provision and those that enrol older and/or part-time learners.

Members would be aware that Immigration NZ made significant changes to policies affecting international students wanting to obtain a Study to Work visa, who will now be required to study for no less than a two year qualification. We believe this policy favours degree provision and is detrimental to a large number of Diploma and Certificate qualifications that currently attract international students. This policy could lead to a considerable reduction of international students coming to New Zealand, potential staff losses and PTE closures. Within hours of the announcement, NZAPEP was lobbying and gaining information from PTEs to prepare a submission paper. I want to acknowledge the work done by Luella Bartlett, NZAPEP Board member, who has worked quickly and hard on this

The Targeted Review of Qualifications is progressing, with a number of areas of study scheduled for mandatory review this year making considerable headway. There has been effective engagement between mandatory stakeholders and PTEs in some areas, while NZQA facilitators have been appointed in other fields of study to ensure that the engagement is collaborative with no bias towards any group. Members are urged to contact us if there are any concerns and/or problems that affect you as you work through this process.

I attended the Sector Reference Group on Cross Border Education meeting on 9 June. The group's purpose is to provide advice on the development of quality assurance requirements for cross-border education. NZQA has sent out a questionnaire, and there will be formal sector consultation in July. NZQA anticipates that the clarified policy requirements will be in place by September 2011. I encourage you to give your feedback both to the questionnaire and the formal consultation document.

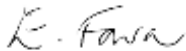
We have had two meetings with the Ministry of Education. The first was around the Wider Setting Policy for PTEs that includes the 103% overprovision, and the second related to the strategies NZAPEP has been working on. The aim is to foster effective engagement with the Ministry so that NZAPEP can contribute to policy that affects PTEs as it is being formulated.

Reports on meetings with the TEC and MSD are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to express our sadness at the loss of James Turner, Principal Adviser, PTEs and Communities, from the TEC and to formally thank him for his considerable contribution to our sector. James has been working with PTEs through some difficult periods emanating from adverse policy these last six years. Throughout he has always been available to explain and address questions from individual PTEs on a regular basis at the NZAPEP regional meetings and Road Shows. James was instrumental in introducing and fostering an era of consultation at Peak Body meetings, at the heart of which were the values of fairness, ethics, authenticity and transparency.

Those of us who know James cannot but be infected by his positiveness, be amazed at his ability to work with us through the most averse policy, and be humbled by his approachability and his commitment to the PTE sector. His departure is going to be felt severely for years to come. On behalf of NZAPEP, I wish James the best success for the future.

Best Regards



Edwige Fava

NZAPEP President

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF). Brisbane, Australia 24 August 2011

NZAPEP members and international partners are invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) in Brisbane on the 24 August 2011. Delegates from across the region will come together to foster the exchange of ideas, innovative practice, networks and partnerships.

This not to be missed Forum provides participants with opportunities to be engaged in a high level discourse on regional international education issues, provides coordinated access to fellow education providers from across the Asia Pacific region and much more.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Forum, this year the APIEF will focus on the future of International Education in the Asia Pacific. To Register [click here](#) and follow the prompts.



# NZAPEP Conference and Events 2011

## Events

### Roadshows

The next round of NZAPEP Roadshows are due to commence on 8 June in Auckland. Further Roadshows will be held in Hamilton, Christchurch, Wellington and Palmerston North. These will all run for four hours and presentations will be more detailed and in depth than at Regional Forums. These will be the last Roadshows for 2011.

The cost to attend Roadshows is \$40 per person for NZAPEP members and \$70 per person for non-member providers. Registrations may be made by clicking [here](#) or by copying the following into your browser address window - <http://bookings.nzapep.co.nz>

The following is an indicative programme for all Roadshows together with the dates.

9.30 am	Registration and Coffee
10.00 am	Commence and house keeping
10.05 am	NZQA
11.05 am	Ako Aotearoa
11.20 am	NZAPEP Update
11.25 am	Ministry of Social Development
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.00 pm	Career Services
1.30 pm	TEC
2.30 pm	Close

Date	Type	Location
14 June	Roadshow	NZ Institute of Sport, 66B Wharenui Road, Riccarton, <b>Christchurch</b>
15 June	Roadshow	Travelodge Hotel, Gilmer Tce, <b>Wellington</b>
16 June	Roadshow	The Gap, 137 Broadway Ave through to 185 King Street, <b>Palmerston North</b>

Later in 2011 the following Regional Forums will also be held:

1 November	Regional Forum	Auckland
2 November	Regional Forum	Tauranga
8 November	Regional Forum	Christchurch
9 November	Regional Forum	Wellington
10 November	Regional Forum	Wanganui

### Conference

Registrations for the NZAPEP Conference are now open.

You can register by clicking [here](#) or copying the following into your browser address window:  
<http://bookings.nzapep.co.nz>

Conference 2011 is to be held at the Amora Hotel (formally the Duxton), 170 Wakefield St, Wellington on Thursday 1 September and Friday 2 September. There will be an optional Workshop day on Wednesday 31 August.

The draft programme is available on the NZAPEP Website. Click [here](#) for more information or cut and paste the following into your browser's address bar:

<http://nzapep.co.nz/programme.htm>

Please note that the programme is being updated as presenters are finalised.

The cost of Registration for Conference 2011 is as follows:

	Members	Non Members
Early bird (before 1 July)	\$650.00	\$750.00
Standard	\$750.00	\$850.00.

Conference registration includes tickets for the annual awards dinner where the Student, Tutor, Support Person and Provider of the year are announced. In addition the recipients of the Margret Yates Scholarship, the L H Martin Leadership Award and the House of Montrose Life Time of Service Awards will be announced.

Conference 2011 will also be celebrating 20 years of NZAPEP so members are encouraged to attend and support their association. Registrations are already being received and a number of places have been filled.

Don't forget you can register by clicking [here](#) or copying the following into your browser address window - <http://bookings.nzapep.co.nz>

## Export Education - Policy Changes

On 1 June the Minister of Immigration, Hon Jonathan Coleman announced a number of policy changes to come into effect.

The changes, which come into effect from July 2011, are designed to strengthen student visa requirements and conditions, improve access to study and training, and improve pathways to residence. Some changes will not take effect until early 2012 to remove any additional barriers to students affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

Dr Coleman said that the majority of people are here to legitimately study, but some just see a student visa as a short cut to gaining access to New Zealand, and some education providers have been enrolling students who are not capable of successfully completing their courses, have poor attendance and who are recording poor learning outcomes. This affects our reputation as a high quality study destination, and our ability to attract more genuine students who have the skills New Zealand needs.

Dr Coleman noted that export education supports about 32,000 jobs, with the export education industry being worth around 2.3 billion – a significant earner for New Zealand.



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While students holding New Zealand qualifications or students who are currently studying towards New Zealand qualifications will not be affected by changes to the Study to Work instructions or the points available under the Skilled Migrant Category, of particular concern is one of the key changes being introduced from July:

- Students who commence studying in New Zealand on or after 25 July 2011 will be required to undertake a two-year course to be eligible for a Study to Work visa. Current immigration policy defines a two year course as a course of full-time study over four semesters during a period of at least 16 months.

Following the announcement of the changes to the Immigration policy NZAPEP asked members for comments which were taken to an Export Education Sector/ Immigration New Zealand Forum the next day, 2 June, at which NZAPEP was represented by Luella Bartlett, a Board member.

After representation at that meeting by NZAPEP and a submission to the Department of Labour on the policy, the Department advised that they are now seeking further sector input to ensure that the two year course requirement for Study to Work visas is appropriately targeted.

Earlier consultation on the proposals in 2010 did not look at specific policy changes, but rather an overall policy in which the Department was tasked to revise policy for New Zealand's future labour market needs. The scope did not take into account the export dollar earnings, why international students studied here and the globalisation of skills, qualifications and their application, vocational market needs, including vocational skill shortage areas and a number of other key issues.

NZAPEP has made further submissions on this issue and is seeking to have this policy reviewed and overturned.

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## TEC/MSD TOPS Reference Group Meeting

A TEC/MSD TOPS reference Group Meeting was held on Thursday 2 June 2011. NZAPEP was represented by Christine Clark. Notes taken at the meeting follow:

### Travel:

- 21c per km as provided by NZ Automobile Association – this was questioned. Providers cannot be asked to change the amount mid programme and what about those who roll-over??  
*Peter Martin from MSD said that 21c per km is not as recommended by the A.A. There will be more information coming out in the new handbook regarding this.*
- 2 km minimum distance for travel allowance – clients will not be happy with this especially in winter.  
*Payment may now be at the provider's discretion*
- Evidence of fuel expenditure is to be by receipts – why not the MAXX Auckland Transport and Wises as previously discussed.  
*It was agreed that using MAXX and Wises is sensible so continue to do so*
- Foundation Focused Training Opportunities – a generic letter was sent to providers who were not FFO funded. An apology was received from TEC



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**Referrals:**

- Ongoing inappropriate referrals.  
*It was acknowledged that this is still a problem but with increased communication between the Case Managers and the PTE there is improvement*
- No-shows.  
*When this happens please inform the Case Manager as soon as possible*
- Self-referrals – It was suggested that MSD have 1 person within a region for providers to refer clients to; short cutting the need to see a Case Manager and the potential student “getting lost” in the process.  
*This is a distinct possibility and will be addressed in the near future. Some providers may already have an informal arrangement in place. This is to cover both FFTO and Training for Work (TFW)*
- The Assessment tool needs review.  
*It was agreed that this tool is not exactly helping anyone’s cause. Many Case Managers are using their ability to re-categorise clients. Providers are encouraged to speak with Case Managers / Programme Co-ordinators about their needs.*
- Poor communication between Case Managers and providers of prospective/expected referrals, with clients expecting a phone call to set up an appointment with the provider but the provider being unaware of this – poor follow through.  
*It was agreed that this is happening, however PTEs are encouraged to advertise and find their learners, refer these to the identified person who will stream line the Work & Income process and then continue with business as normal.*

**Outcomes:**

- Where education is seen as a negative.  
*More information is required on this. How many learners want to go into further education after attending an FFTO programme? How many actually do?? MSD believe that approximately 20% of learners would like this opportunity – is that wrong? If MSD are to change the negative outcome they need evidence of need and also that learners’ progress on and don’t just go sideways. This learning would have to be employment related.*
- How are the statistics?  
*MSD are just getting figures in now for the first TFW programmes and their outcomes. In reality it will be well into 2012 before MSD can decisively tell if this is a success. Initial information will be shared with NZAPEP as soon as MSD has it. There may be some confusion over occupancy however, as many providers are not operating a flexi on/off policy and are therefore “parking” the next lot of learners. This is fine but W&I need to be very aware of this and it must be clearly noted in the system.*
- 91 days is unfair now that NZ has the 90 day trial law. Can this be reviewed?  
*Not at this stage*
- Can an outcome be changed if you find that a client who was a negative has actually become a positive during the time frame but that a provider was not aware of it at the time of reporting?  
*Yes, provided the provider contacts the Service Centre*
- The above should not occur if W&I are assisting.  
*There is a closer relationships for PTEs with their local offices now – if not please let NZAPEP know*

**PTE performance measures:**

- What constitutes a “good PTE” – can we have a forum to discuss this?  
*Providers should please let NZAPEP know what they think. This is really important as it will be a basis to allocate funding in the future. MSD and TEC are already looking at the “good provider” – what their characteristics are that they have in common e.g. an established employer group?*
- Future contracts?  
*The allocation of funding will be notified by the end of June. This notification will not include Youth and may not include Intensive Literacy & Numeracy. Providers are also encouraged to start looking at their investment plan early July. It may be possible to renegotiate contracts between MSD and TEC if a provider can produce a sound case that they would be better suited to providing TFW instead of FFTO or vice versa. It is not envisaged that funding will change this time around, and travel will be sorted for 2012.*

- Extra funding opportunities.

*These have started coming through, however if anyone is concerned by any of this and believe that some may duplicate services already offered please let NZAPEP know as soon as possible. Most of these opportunities are asking for an expression of interest and it is suggested that prior to putting a lot of effort into these providers contact their Regional Contracts Manager and discuss their idea. That way regional needs can be established.*

#### **Other issues discussed:**

- End dates of programmes and end dates for the learner may not be the same. The learner who joins up on week 13 of a 26 week programme still has 13 weeks left when the programme ends. This learner is withdrawn, re-enrolled and completes their 13 weeks. The PTE and the tool used by TEC/MSD must have a system in it to clearly show the number of learner weeks – not just programme weeks. This is being looked at.
- FFTO Travel Reports – please, please submit these if you haven't already.

#### **Comment**

Providers are very fortunate that this is a transition year and that everyone has been consulted and encouraged to make this work. It is believed that this is also going to happen with the new Youth Guarantee Funding.

The new Handbooks for Training for Work and Foundation Focused Training Opportunities are eagerly awaited.

If there are any questions or comments please send them directly to Christine Clark at [Christine@corpgroup.co.nz](mailto:Christine@corpgroup.co.nz) Without providers' input NZAPEP could not achieve as much as has been.

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## New Education and Evaluation Consultancy Walbran Consulting

*Helping education providers deliver the best possible results for learners*

Walbran Consulting offers expertise in:

- developing effective organisational self-assessment
- making improvements following external evaluation and review (EER)
- evaluating/reviewing programmes or qualifications
- exploring and developing new initiatives
- assessment and/or moderation
- general troubleshooting.

Dr Sue Walbran is an educationalist with over 25 years experience in teaching, programme and curriculum development, administration and academic leadership, quality assurance (evaluation and audit).

Dr Walbran played a key role in the design of NZQA's methodology for external evaluation and review and has more recently been involved in initiatives aimed at assisting providers to use 'evaluative thinking' to strengthen self-assessment and improve organisational performance.

Whether your organisation is large or small and the problem straightforward or complex, Dr Walbran has a variety of tools and approaches that can assist.

Contact Dr Walbran to discuss your requirements:

TEL: (021)502236

EMAIL: [sue.walbran@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sue.walbran@xtra.co.nz)

## 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](mailto: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.

If any members have articles or new they wish to be included in PEPTalk please contact Chuck Wareham. We are always pleased to acknowledge "good news" about members as long as space permits.

## Report on TEC Peak Bodies Meeting June 2011

At the meeting which was held on 2 June NZAPEP was represented by Karl Yates, Edwige Fava and Christine Clarke

### TEC Restructure

Grant Klinkum (General Manager Tertiary Investment) opened the meeting talking about the TEC restructure. James Turner then resumed the Chair.

Key points from Grant included:

- From an investment viewpoint PTEs will be part of 5 Investment Groups so a whole system approach can be achieved, allowing TEC to align provision at a regional level to meet social and economic need.
- Lower tolerance for poor outcomes (Sector Wide)
- Fewer TEC staff (effectively around 200 Full time staff now)
- Less rules, simpler system. This must be the case due to reduced capacity.
- Service Centre has minimal staff changes.
- The new Chief Advisor, PTEs and Communities is Kirsten Ray. Kirsten is currently in the Minister's office. She has run a PTE in Rotorua. Kirsten is due to start next week at TEC.
- Other Chief Advisors are appointed and detailed on the TEC website.

The changes give some continuity and some change.

The meeting was very disappointed to hear that James Turner was not successful in his application. Some time was spent thanking James and acknowledging his huge contribution over the past 5-6 years, through the period of constant change for the sector.

James is speaking at all the NZAPEP Roadshows, so this will be an opportunity for those who wish to thank James. It is anticipated that James will go into a consultancy role in the sector, so will still have a contribution to make, but at a different level. A formal farewell will be held before James's departure.

The new TEC CEO, Belinda Clarke, starts on 4 July 2011

### Budget 2011

The main features of the Budget were distributed to members immediately following the Budget and are not repeated here.



## Youth Training and Youth Guarantee

This was a Budget announcement with large implications for many members.

- It is planned to redesign both programmes to a single programme.
- Target Market, Youth with no qualifications to NCEA level 2
- It is anticipated that level 3 training will be capped at current levels.
- Youth training now has 4300 places, Youth Guarantee 7500 places
- A stronger education focus than traditional YT is expected.
- Full time training is expected, but a less than 120 credit loading per year is seen as realistic for some students.
- Course and Qualification completion will be a driver.
- N&L progress required to be demonstrated.
- Travel costs? Discussions to be ongoing, and issues around FFTO and TFW travel were raised.
- Current provider base seen as the starting point, but performance / quality providers will survive.
- Future discussions to start in July. Peak Body consultation will occur.

## 2012 Investment Plan

The initial funding allocation letters for 2012 are due out 21 June (not confirmed). The plan is to follow this up with the release of the Investment Plan tool. There will be few funds such as YT, YG and ILN that will take longer to allocate.

## ESOL in 2012

\$3.4m new money allocated. This should equate to 700 places targeted at refugees and migrants.

This is mostly at below level 1 and up to level 2.

Also a fee top up for refugees at TEOs under SAC funding.

Further details are on the TEC website.

## Publication of Performance Information

The process will be similar to last year.

Data accuracy reports are due out mid-June, then there will be 4 weeks to check data, with publication expected early August.

Issues around embedded qualifications and qualification completions are due to go to the Board next meeting.

## TLEC

This is still planned to replace the SDR from the end of 2012

Timeframes are currently unchanged. Further confirmation is expected following next TEC Board meeting.

## Employment outcomes

Tracking tertiary students into employment is now occurring through data sharing with IRD and DoL. No data at sub sector or provider level is available yet as privacy issues are still being worked through.

## Christchurch Earthquake

2012 funding for affected providers is starting from a rolling 2011 funding position, but it will be affected by 2010 performance. Low performers in 2010, unless they can justify the low performance, may be penalised, but providers should not be penalised due to low occupancy completions as a result of the earthquake.

Concerned providers need to liaise with TEC. Affected providers should already be keeping TEC informed of progress.

With the changes at TEC a meeting is planned to make decisions on the way forward for the PTE Peak Bodies meetings

**Contact Details for the 2011 NZAPEP Board**

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## Correspondence to Members

- 11 May 2011 - TEC Update – PBRF and Publication of Performance Data
- 12 May 2011 - SDR due 15 May - Final Reminder
- 12 May 2011 - Management Essentials Series of Professional Development
- 17 May 2011 - Confirmation of TEC Structure
- 17 May 2011 - E-News 17 May 2011
- 17 May 2011 - Joyce on TEC Funding Recovery from ITOs
- 18 May 2011 - Industry Training Funding Issues
- 18 May 2011 - Final Guidelines for TFW Programmes
- 18 May 2011 - NZQA Review Summaries - April 2011
- 19 May 2011 - Cross Border Tertiary Education Sector Reference Group - May 2011
- 20 May 2011 - Budget 2011 - Key Points
- 22 May 2011 - Meeting for Information Technology - esp.CompTIA Certification - Providers
- 22 May 2011 - Facilitating Special Interest Groups
- 22 May 2011 - PBRF 2012 Quality Evaluation confirmed following Canterbury Earthquake
- 23 May 2011 - Achievement Standards
- 24 May 2011 - Youth and TOPs Funding Schemes
- 25 May 2011 - WPL - First Progress Report and ILN - First Progress Report

- 25 May 2011 - Unit Standard Based Degrees -proposed legislative change
- 25 May 2011 - MSD – TEC Meeting
- 26 May 2011 - Literacy and Numeracy at Work and Maori and Pasifika in Tertiary Education
- 26 May 2011 - Tertiary Policy Forum
- 30 May 2011 - IELTS Information Sessions
- 30 May 2011 - Budget 2011 - Youth Guarantee Update
- 31 May 2011 - Review of Government Agencies
- 31 May 2011 - Further MSD Funding Opportunities
- 31 May 2011 - E-News 31 May 2011
- 1 June 2011 - Export Education - Immigration Changes
- 2 June 2011 - Export Education Policy Changes - Urgent
- 2 June 2011 - E-Learning Provision and Participation - Trends, Patterns and Highlights
- 2 June 2011 - Changes in Immigration Policies – Data Required Urgently
- 3 June 2011 - Study to Work Policy Changes - further sector input
- 10 June 2011 - E-News - 8 June 2011
- 10 June 2011 - School's Out - What's Next?
- 10 June 2011 - NZQA Website Updated – June 2011
- 10 June 2011 - Updated Plan Guidance and Gazette Notice for 2012 Investment Plans Published

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