

Reform of Vocational Education (ROVE) Infosheet



The government is reforming vocational education, with the aim of creating a better system for learners, workplaces and staff, and breaking down barriers between on-the-job and off-the-job training.

A key change is that industry training organisations (ITOs), including Skills Active, will be disestablished. The work they do will be taken over by new organisations:

1. The new New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) will deliver classroom-based, online and on-the-job learning. The NZIST is an amalgamation of the existing 16 polytechs.
2. Six newly created Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) will develop qualifications and set standards, and provide skills leadership, brokerage and industry advocacy.

Skills Active needs to hand over the roles described above. We are working really hard to coordinate with industry, government and the people setting up the new entities, to make sure we effectively transition our functions effectively between now and December 2022.

Along the way there will be big changes for industry, workplaces and our staff. We want to make the change as seamless as possible. While we go through this period of change, some key things to remember are:

- The reform is our best chance to make the vocational education system better for industry.
- Each of Skills Active's industries has its own set of circumstances and needs, which will determine how best to navigate the transition for that industry. It's not a one-size-fits-all deal.
- WDCs will be governed by the industries they represent. This gives industry more control over all aspects of vocational education – they will decide whether programmes are right for industry, and how they should be delivered to industry.
- The NZIST is not a “mega-polytech” that will operate in exactly the same way as the polytechs did. It is a new national entity responsible for all vocational training.
- Training never stops, even as we go through the change process - everyone who enrolls in a qualification, at every stage, will be able to complete it.

So, where is ROVE up to?

The government has started setting up the WDCs covering different industry groups. Our industries belong to the creative, cultural, recreation and technology WDC. Meanwhile, the NZIST is in the early stages of development and work is underway to iron out how the 16 subsidiaries will operate as one body. ITOs are engaging with their stakeholders to determine how on-the-job training will be transitioned into the NZIST.

Key questions

The “arranging training” function needs to be handed over to providers, such as private training establishments (PTEs), wānanga or the NZIST, by December 2022. To make sure that handover meets the needs of each individual industry, we are asking our stakeholders for their feedback:

1. To improve the way on-the-job training operates in your industry, what do you want future on-job training providers to **keep** doing; to **stop** doing, and to **start** doing; as an outcome of the reform?
2. Taken as an open question, what does a successful reform of on-job training look like to you and your industry? And which type of provider or providers would you like to overseeing on-the-job training for your industry? (Regional subsidiary polytech, PTE, wānanga, or national provider?)

Skills Active is working with industry, the NZIST and government to shape the future of on-job training. And we are here to help each of our industries work out which transition option is best. These are two of our key goals for the remainder of 2020. Stay tuned as we will keep in regular contact about the reform. Check out our website for [ROVE updates](#), and if you have any questions about the reform, please [get in touch with your industry development advisor](#).