

# Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education  
Minister for Women  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



Jenn Bestwick  
Chair  
Tertiary Education Commission  
PO Box 27-048  
Wellington 6141

Dear Jenn,

## **Determination of Design of Funding Mechanism: Te Tahua o Te Reo Kairangi**

I am writing to advise you of a determination of the design of a funding mechanism, under section 419 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), for Te Tahua o Te Reo Kairangi.

The new determination is set out in the appendix of this letter. The determination provides direction to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) on the design of Te Tahua o Te Reo Kairangi and high-level details of its operation.

Te Tahua o Te Reo Kairangi supports the growth of intergenerational language transmission and the building of a workforce that is proficient in te reo Māori, especially within the education workforce. This will contribute to the Government's goals and strategies for te reo Māori language education as articulated in Maihi Karauna, Tau Mai Te Reo and the Tertiary Education Strategy.

Under section 422 of the Act, it is the TEC's responsibility to develop the details needed to implement my determinations of the design of funding mechanisms.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Tinetti'.

**Hon Jan Tinetti**  
Minister of Education

# DETERMINATION OF DESIGN OF FUNDING MECHANISM: TE TAHUA O TE REO KAIRANGI

## PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

### *Introduction and Statutory Authority*

1. This determination is made under section 419 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) and specifies the design of the funding mechanism for Te Tahua o Te Reo Kairangi (the Fund).

### *Purpose*

2. The purpose of the Fund is to support:
  - a. the growth and development of te reo Māori proficiency through tertiary education;
  - b. language revitalisation through the development and delivery of new or existing programmes and micro-credentials that contribute to high levels of language proficiency; and
  - c. the development of immersion delivery in tertiary education settings.

### *Off-plan funding*

3. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) must pay funding allocated through this funding mechanism under section 428 of the Act.

## PART ONE: THE FUNDING MECHANISM

### **General Parameters**

#### *Effective period dates*

4. This funding mechanism relates to funding provision that meets the criteria from 1 January 2024.
5. The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions before 1 January 2024 as required to give effect to this funding mechanism.

#### *Eligible Organisations*

6. The TEC may only fund a tertiary education organisation (TEO) under this funding mechanism if it is one of the following:
  - a. Te Pūkenga—New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga);
  - b. a private training establishment (PTE);
  - c. a wānanga; or
  - d. a university.

### ***Eligibility of programmes or micro-credentials***

7. The TEC must ensure that the funding allocated to a TEO under this funding mechanism is only used for:
  - a. new programmes or micro-credentials in te reo Māori delivered at Level 5 and above on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) that either:
    - i. support high levels of proficiency; or
    - ii. will be delivered in immersion settings; or
  - b. existing programmes or micro-credentials in te reo Māori delivered at Level 5 and above on the NZQCF that constitute a material expansion and/or improvement of the existing programme or micro-credential (and not 'business as usual' development or programme maintenance) and either:
    - i. support high levels of proficiency; or
    - ii. are delivered in immersion settings.

### ***Available Funding***

8. The amount of Government funding that can be allocated under this funding mechanism will be set through the Government's annual budget processes.

### ***Allocation of Funding***

9. The TEC must develop a process for allocating funding to TEOs that:
  - a. is consistent with the purpose of the Fund;
  - b. is consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
  - c. excludes provision that is at NZQCF Level 4 and below, unless delivered as part of a programme or micro-credential at Level 5 and above;
  - d. contributes to the Government's goals and strategies of language revitalisation and the Government's education goals more generally; and
  - e. has regard to the Whakamātauria Tō Reo Māori framework, the Language Proficiency Framework<sup>1</sup> developed by Te Taura Whiri I te Reo Māori with the intention that learners progress through the framework levels toward higher levels of proficiency.
10. The TEC must only provide funding from the Fund to eligible TEOs as outlined in paragraph 6, and for eligible programmes and micro-credentials or as outlined in paragraph 7.

---

<sup>1</sup> See <https://en.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/lfe#Framework>

## **PART TWO: FUNDING CONDITIONS**

### **General conditions for off-Plan funding**

11. The TEC must impose any conditions on funding allocated under this funding mechanism that it considers necessary to ensure that funding will achieve the purpose for which it has been allocated.

### **General conditions that the TEC must attach to funding**

12. The TEC must attach the following specific conditions (detailed in paragraphs 13 to 20) on funding allocation under this funding mechanism.
13. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must meet and continue to meet the relevant eligibility criteria for TEOs specified in paragraph 6 of this funding mechanism.
14. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must ensure that the existing or new programmes or micro-credentials for te reo Māori provision for which the funding is provided meet and continue to meet the criteria specified in paragraph 7 of this funding mechanism.
15. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism, must develop a process for how it will measure the impacts of this funding.

### ***Performance expectations and reporting***

16. The TEC must attach to funding any necessary funding conditions relating to the performance measurement and reporting requirements for TEOs that receive funding under this funding mechanism.

### ***Responsible use of funding***

17. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a TEO that receives funding under this funding mechanism must use the funding:
  - a. lawfully and responsibly; and
  - b. in line with the purpose of the Fund; and
  - c. in a manner consistent with the appropriate use of public funds.

### ***Recovery of funding***

18. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that if a TEO receives funding under this funding mechanism that is greater than it should have been, or that it was not entitled to receive, the TEO must treat the amount of the over-funding as a debt due to the Crown that:
  - a. is repayable on demand; and
  - b. may be set-off against all or any funding, or any sum of money payable by

the TEC to the TEO.

19. The TEC must provide the TEO with reasonable notice before exercising its right to demand repayment or set-off the debt against all or any funding.

***Repayment of funding following revocation of funding approval***

20. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that if, in accordance with clause 26 of Schedule 18 of the Act, the TEC suspends or revokes some or all of a TEOs funding paid under this funding mechanism before that funding has been used or contractually committed towards the purposes for which that funding was provided, then the TEO must treat the unexpended or uncommitted portion of the funding as a debt due to the Crown that:

- a. is repayable on demand; and
- b. may be set-off against all or any funding, or any sum of money payable by the TEC to the TEO.

***TEC Administrative Responsibilities***

21. If a TEO receives funding under this funding mechanism that is less than it should have been, or less than it was entitled to receive, the TEC must treat the amount of the under-funding as a credit and pay the amount as soon as is reasonably practicable.