

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Universities
Minister of Statistics
Minister for Pacific Peoples



Alan Bollard
Chair
Tertiary Education Commission
PO Box 27-048
Wellington 6141

Dear Alan,

Determination of Design of Funding Mechanism: Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund

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 Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund.

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 Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund and high-level details of its operation.

The Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund supports Wānanga to deliver the initiatives and activities related to their unique purpose and function in the tertiary education system, as reflected in the characteristics of Wānanga in the Act. It supplements the volume-based funding of Wānanga in recognition that Wānanga have funding pressures that are different from the rest of the tertiary system.

The Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund is a permanent funding mechanism to recognise the funding challenges Wānanga face in providing their unique delivery model. It replaces the annual grants previously made under section 556 of the Act (a culmination of research capability, stop-gap and medium-term transitional funding) for Wānanga. The broad purpose of the funding reflects the different operational needs and aspirations of each Wānanga.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Reti'.

Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister for Universities

DETERMINATION OF DESIGN OF FUNDING MECHANISM: NGĀ WHARE WĀNANGA ALLOCATED FUND

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Statutory authority

1. This determination of the design of a funding mechanism is made under section 419 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) and specifies the design of the funding mechanism for Ngā Whare Wānanga Allocated Fund (the Fund).

Purpose

2. The purpose of the Fund is to support Wānanga to deliver initiatives and activities related to the characteristics of Wānanga as set out in section 398D of the Act that are not covered by funding for delivery.

On-plan funding

3. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) must pay funding allocated under this funding mechanism in accordance with section 425 of the Act.

PART ONE: THE FUNDING MECHANISM

Effective period dates

4. This funding mechanism covers initiatives and activities from 1 January 2026.
5. The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions before 1 January 2026 as required to give effect to this funding mechanism.

Available funding

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

Eligible organisations

7. The TEC may only fund a tertiary education organisation (TEO) under this funding mechanism if the TEO is a Category A Wānanga, Category B Wānanga, or Category C Wānanga as defined in section 10(1) of the Act.

Distribution of funding

8. The available funding must be distributed equally between the eligible organisations.

PART TWO: FUNDING CONDITIONS

9. The TEC must impose the following specific conditions on funding provided to each Wānanga under this funding mechanism.

Responsible use of funding

10. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a Wānanga that receives funding under this funding mechanism must use the funding:
 - a. lawfully, responsibly, and for the purposes for which it is provided; and
 - b. in a manner consistent with the appropriate use of public funds.

Recovery of funding

11. 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.
12. 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

13. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that if, in accordance with clause 16 of Schedule 18 of the Act, the TEC suspends or revokes some or all of a TEO's 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

14. If a Wānanga 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.

Reporting requirements

15. The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a Wānanga that receives funding under this funding mechanism will include in its annual reports what it has achieved in giving effect to the purposes of the funding.

