



17 June 2020

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

Dear Jenn

## **Delegation to fund initiatives with Tertiary Education Organisations to improve equity outcomes**

I am writing to advise you of a delegation to fund initiatives to improve equity outcomes in tertiary education. The purpose of the funding is to improve equity of outcomes for groups that currently have lower participation and achievement in the tertiary education system, such as those with low prior educational attainment, or those from families without previous experiences of tertiary education study, where Māori and Pacific students are over-represented. This serves the same purpose as the existing Equity Funding currently does, although the funding arrangement is different as it supports specific initiatives.

In particular, the funding must be used to support tertiary education organisations (TEOs) in undertaking new approaches to engage learners with higher needs and support them to achieve in tertiary education. Specific initiatives will be funded, across a small number of tertiary providers, up to the total amount of funding available.

TEO eligibility aligns with the eligibility for Equity Funding and is limited to TEOs receiving funding from Student Achievement Component (SAC) provision at Level 3 and above. This is due to this funding seeking to fully-utilise Equity Funding for the purpose intended, and learnings from these initiatives aim to influence how learner targeted funding is spent by providers in future.

An eligible initiative is an initiative that identifies learners that need additional support to achieve in the tertiary education system, as well as engage learners with higher needs in the tertiary education system, and supports them to achieve in the tertiary education system.

This funding will utilise the funding appropriated within Vote Tertiary Education Access to Tertiary Education appropriation that is not being fully-utilised until 31 December 2021. Based on current forecast expenditure in this appropriation, up to \$3 million can be utilised for these initiatives.

I delegate to the Tertiary Education Commission (under section 159F(1)(e) of the Education Act 1989) authority to pay funding:

# Hon Chris Hipkins

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**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



- for initiatives that identify learners that need additional support to achieve in tertiary education, and engage learners with higher needs in tertiary education and support them to achieve in tertiary education;
- to TEOs eligible for Equity Funding; and
- of up to \$3 million in total until 31 December 2021.

I expect the TEC to:

- report to me on the initiatives it has funded and the progress of those initiatives every six months, including progress of non-funded wider sector implementation;
- publish information on the initiatives it has funded, including a public list of the TEOs it has funded, and how much funding those TEOs have received; and
- disseminate learnings from the initiatives funded to improve outcomes for the tertiary education system.

This delegation applies to initiatives funded from the date of this letter until 31 December 2021. The TEC may exercise any of its administrative functions as required to give effect to this delegation outside of those dates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CH Hipkins'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education