

## Tertiary Education Report: ‘Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes’ contestable funding for 2019 delivery

<b>Date:</b>	12 November 2018	<b>TEC priority:</b>	High
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Report no:</b>	B-18-00798
		<b>Minister’s office No:</b>	

ACTION SOUGHT		
	Action sought	Deadline
<b>Hon Chris Hipkins</b> Minister of Education	<b>note</b> that we opened a contestable funding round for ACE in Communities ‘Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes’ on 6 November 2018;  <b>agree</b> that TEC proactively release this briefing.	12 November 2018
<b>Cc: Hon Tracey Martin</b> Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Enclosure:</b> No	<b>Round Robin:</b> No	

CONTACT FOR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Gillian Dudgeon	Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery	s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓
s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

**THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES HAVE SEEN THIS REPORT**

- DPMC   
  MPI   
  ENZ   
  ERO   
  MBIE   
  MoE   
  MFAT  
 MPP   
  MSD   
  NZQA   
  NZTE   
 TEC   
  TPK   
  Treasury

**Minister’s Office to Complete:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined
<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change
<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events
<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister’s Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn

**Comments:**

## Recommendations

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**Hon Chris Hipkins**, Minister of Education

*It is recommended that you:*

1. **note** that we opened a contestable funding round for ACE in Communities 'Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes' on the 6 November 2018; and
2. **agree** that TEC proactively release this briefing with Budget sensitive information withheld.

**AGREED / NOT AGREED**



**Gillian Dudgeon**

Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery  
Tertiary Education Commission

12 November 2018

**Hon Chris Hipkins**

Minister of Education

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## **Purpose**

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1. This briefing updates you on the implementation of the contestable funding round for 'Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes' programmes.
2. Up to \$1.0 million will be allocated from the Adult and Community Education (ACE) in Communities Fund for 2019 delivery.

## **Background on computers in homes**

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3. The computers in homes programme was previously delivered by the 20/20 Trust (the Trust) under a contract with the Ministry of Education (MoE) that expired in 2017.
4. Computers in homes programmes aimed to support digital inclusion by providing participants with access to informal digital literacy training to increase skills and confidence in the use of computers, access to a device, and access to the internet.
5. Since 2017 the TEC has invested in an ACE in Communities programme called 'Family Connect' delivered by the Trust. 'Family Connect' is similar to computers in homes as it offers digital literacy training for families including a refurbished device and internet access for 12 months.
6. The Trust has had ACE allocations for 'Family Connect' of \$249,417 in 2017, \$498,936 in 2018 and \$500,000 for 2019 calendar year delivery.

## **Where did new funding come from and why is it contestable?**

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7. The Labour and New Zealand First Coalition Agreement committed to restore funding for computers in homes programmes.
8. In June 2018 Cabinet approved the allocation of up to \$1.0 million of underspends from Vote Tertiary Education in the 2017/18 year for computers in homes programmes for 2018/19. Cabinet noted that ongoing funding for strengthened computers in homes programmes would be considered as part of Budget 2019.
9. In July 2018 Associate Minister of Education, Hon Tracey Martin, issued a press release announcing that a contestable fund of up to \$1.0 million would be established to restore funding for computers in homes programmes.
10. We will request a transfer of \$500,000 in the March Baseline Update from 2018/19 to 2019/20 to allow funding of programmes for the full 2019 calendar year.

## **Why is the TEC allocating funding through ACE?**

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11. Following discussions with the Minister of Education's office, it was agreed that funding for the computers in homes programme would be transferred to the TEC and administered as part of the ACE in Communities pool. The purpose of the computers in homes programme is well-aligned with the priorities for ACE funding which includes digital literacy.
12. Allocating computers in homes funding through an existing ACE fund provides for a robust and efficient allocation and administration of the funding given the policy settings, delegations and investment processes for ACE funding are already in place.

13. A contestable process will also allow TEC to assess a wider range of interested tertiary education organisations (TEOs), which could improve the quality of provision.
14. The creation of a separate contestable computers in homes fund was not a viable option given the relatively small amount of funding involved, and the additional administration costs and time required to design and implement a new fund.
15. We provided you with an update in our fortnightly report (11 October 2018) confirming our intention to run a contestable ACE in communities funding round for computers in homes programmes. The timeline included in the update was to publish application information in early November, make funding decisions in mid-December, and for the delivery of programmes to commence in early 2019.

## **Will the new funding align to previous computers in homes initiative?**

16. Our intention is to invest in similar programmes to the computers in homes programme funded by the MoE prior to 2017. Any programmes funded in 2019 should be able to achieve similar outcomes for learners and families that the previous initiative did, but also enable us to assess quality.
17. In line with the previous computers in home initiative, we have outlined in the application guidelines that we want to invest in programmes that:
  - deliver digital literacy training to learners to increase their skills and confidence in the use of computers; and
  - provide access to a device (PC or laptop) in the learner's home that the learner can keep on successful completion of the programme; and
  - provide access to subsidised internet in the learner's home for at least the duration of the programme; and
  - provide access to technical support for up to six months.
18. Organisations eligible to apply for 'Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes' include registered private training establishments (PTEs) that specialise in foundation learning, rural education activities programmes (REAP) providers, and community organisations.
19. Successful applicants will need to comply with the ACE in Communities funding conditions as set out by you in the Determination of Design of Funding Mechanism: Adult and Community Education for 2019.
20. ACE programmes need to be designed to:
  - target learners whose previous learning was not successful;
  - raise foundation skills; and
  - enhance a learner's ability to participate in society and economic life.

## **What process and criteria will TEC use to assess applications?**

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21. The ACE in Communities 'Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes Application Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations' document sets out the assessment process and assessment framework that will be used to evaluate applications.
22. In summary, eligible applications will be assessed against the four assessment criteria set out in the assessment framework (Appendix A). Each assessment criteria will be scored out of 5, and weighted equally. Individual assessment criteria scores will be combined to produce an overall score out of 20 for each application.
23. A TEC review panel will prioritise applications based on evidence of quality (assessment scores), value for money, and the other relevant considerations including:
  - geographic distribution – alignment with regional and national learner need;
  - TEC and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) information and prior knowledge about TEO financial viability, audit findings, investigations, compliance with funding conditions, and TEO capacity and capability; and
  - if the TEO is a PTE, their NZQA external evaluation and review rating.
24. The application guidelines note that demand for the fund may be greater than available funding, and that the highest scoring applications may not necessarily be recommended for funding.

## **How has TEC communicated with the sector?**

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25. On 6 November 2018, we published information about the ACE in Communities 'Digital Literacy – Computers in Homes' contestable funding on the TEC website including application guidelines and an application form. Applications must be received by the TEC before 5 pm on Monday 3 December 2018.
26. We also sent an email to all TEC-funded PTEs, REAP providers, community organisations, and the peak bodies for these organisations, announcing the contestable round.

## Appendix A: 'Digital Literacy - Computers in Homes' Assessment Framework

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	SOURCE	MAXIMUM SCORE
<p>A. Experience in targeting learners whose previous learning was not successful, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people in low socio-economic groups, and</li> <li>• people who do not have digital technology access in their home.</li> </ul> <p>This could also include priority groups, such as Māori and Pasifika.</p>	Application Form	5
B. Experience in raising foundation skills through delivery of digital literacy programme/s.	Application Form	5
C. Demonstrates that learners who have participated in digital literacy programmes are better able to participate in society and life. Participating learners and families have continued access to digital technology after programme completion.	Application Form	5
D. Experience in supporting foundation learners. Support to achieve these outcomes includes learner access to digital technology: access to digital literacy training, access to a device (PC or laptop) in the learner's home, access to subsidised internet, and access to free technical support for up to six months.	Application Form	5
<b>QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCORE</b>		<b>20</b>
Value for money – training and services proposed are an acceptable price.	Application Form – Proposed price	N/A
The cost is appropriate for what is being delivered.	Comparison to other applications	