

Event backgrounder: Launch of Construction Sector and Primary Sector CoVEs at Manukau Institute of Technology on Wednesday 12 August 2020

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	s9(2)(a) [REDACTED], Manager Delivery and Projects
Date:	11 August 2020
Reference:	E-20-00547

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to visit Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) on Wednesday 12 August 2020, from 2.30-3.30pm.
2. The purpose of your visit is to formally launch the construction sector Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) - ConCoVE, which will be hosted at the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) subsidiary MIT.
3. This backgrounder provides you with a brief summary of MIT including funding and issues that may be raised; an overview of CoVEs; and information about the construction and primary sector CoVEs. An overview of MIT's funding for 2020 is attached as Appendix 1. Biographies of key attendees are attached as Appendix 2.
4. David Strong, Portfolio Director, Reform of Vocational Education; and Deirdre Marshall, CoVEs Project Lead and Manager, Delivery and Projects, from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) will also be attending.
5. We recommend this event backgrounder is proactively released following the event.

About MIT

6. MIT is one of the largest subsidiaries of the NZIST, with a 2020 current approved allocation of \$60.6 million.¹ This includes \$2.2 million of funding from the Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund (TTAF) (refer Appendix 1). MIT is funded to deliver to approximately 4,331 equivalent full-time students (EFTS) in 2020.²

¹ Data sourced from Qlik as at 5 August 2020, My Allocations and Payments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2020) and TEO (6010 - Manukau Institute of Technology).

² Data sourced from Qlik as at 5 August 2020, My Commitments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2020) and TEO (6010 – Manukau Institute of Technology).

7. MIT is a Category 1 provider³ that delivers to a high proportion of Pacific students. MIT's main campus is situated in South Auckland, with delivery at seven other sites around Auckland.
8. MIT delivers a wide range of tertiary programmes with the majority at levels 3 and 4; and at degree level. MIT's tertiary programmes include: engineering; building and civil construction; automotive; nursing; specialist trades (such as plumbing and electrical); education; social work and sport; primary and creative industries; logistics; marine engineering; languages; and hospitality and tourism.

New Zealand's Largest Educator of Pacific Peoples at Tertiary Level

9. South Auckland is home to a large Polynesian community. MIT is New Zealand's largest educator of Pacific peoples at tertiary level, with nearly 2,098 Pacific students enrolled. Approximately 31% of MIT's 2020 student population identifies as Pacific people, and 14% as Māori.⁴
10. In 2018 MIT launched the Pasifika Strategic Plan. The five year plan has four goals: transforming student success; establishing powerful connections between students, the institute and communities; strengthening academic quality; and growing capacity. Targeted outcomes include: increasing Pacific peoples' enrolments at MIT by 20% and lifting course completion rates by 10%, over the next five years.

New Technology Park due to open in 2020

11. Construction of MIT's planned Technology Park (Tech Park) - a new centre for engineering and trades education in South Auckland - began in April 2019. The modern 9,000m³, purpose-built facility will be located across the road from MIT Manukau in close proximity to the Manukau bus and railway stations. Tech Park is due to open in the near future.
12. Tech Park will bring all MIT trades and engineering schools under one roof for the first time. These include: building and civil construction; engineering; plumbing and gasfitting; refrigeration; and electrical and automotive schools. More than 1,200 students and 100 staff are expected to utilise the facility each week when it is fully operational.
13. MIT's intention is for the Tech Park to play an instrumental role in its trades academies. MIT is the lead provider for *The School of Secondary-Tertiary Studies*, and *The MIT Trades Academy*. These academies target learners who are underperforming in the traditional academic school environment and at risk of dropping out; are from a low decile school; and are interested in a vocational career path. It enables year 11 to 13 students interested in a career in trades and technology to combine study at the Trades Academy with studies towards their National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA).

Current issues that may arise

Impact of COVID-19

14. MIT has been growing its international student enrolments in recent years, and it is unclear what impact COVID-19 and ongoing border closures will have on future enrolment numbers and MIT's 2020 delivery. The TEC has recently been advised that second semester domestic enrolments are up compared to 2019 and, although it is a new initiative, the TTAF has already had a positive impact on enrolments. Semester two international enrolments are significantly lower than what was expected prior to COVID-19.

³ New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), External Evaluation and Review Report, October 2016.

⁴ Information from April 2020 Single Data Return (SDR). Note: Students are able to identify as more than one ethnicity.

CoVEs

15. CoVEs were announced in August 2019 as part of the reform of vocational education. The construction and primary sectors were chosen as the pilot CoVEs in response to the skills shortages and rapid technological changes happening in these sectors. Furthermore, both sectors will be crucial to New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19.
16. Each CoVE will operate as part of the vocational education system, working closely with Workforce Development Councils, Regional Skills Leadership Groups, and the NZIST.
17. Significantly, CoVEs are industry led, with the specific functions and activity of each CoVE generated by the consortiums themselves rather than tightly specified by the government. Through the application process the TEC ensures that each CoVE is a genuine centre of excellence, and brings together the right people to identify opportunities, solve problems and drive innovation.
18. CoVEs must:
 - Support the growth of excellent vocational education with a focus on teaching, learning and research.
 - Support the development and sharing of high-quality curriculum and programme design.
 - Be a consortium with expert representation from industry, the wider sector, and a range of other areas, for example iwi and vocational education representatives.
 - Have a national focus.
 - Be hosted by a regional campus of the NZIST or a wānanga.
 - Address issues and opportunities with a significant strategic impact, ideally with wide-reaching benefits across the sector.
 - Solve real problems and grasp viable opportunities.
19. CoVEs will not: assess workforce needs; develop qualifications; design or endorse programmes; set and moderate assessments; facilitate workplace training; or deliver directly to learners.
20. The management and governance arrangements for each CoVE are determined by consortium groups as part of the design and application process. Each CoVE is required to report periodically about their project milestones and outcomes set out in the funding agreement between the NZIST and TEC which relates to the specific CoVE.

Selection process

21. The selection process was a two-stage contestable process that included: a Registration of Interest (RoI) process that was open to any applicants; and a Request for Proposal (RfP) process restricted to shortlisted applicants.
22. Successful RoI applicants were invited to submit a RfP to provide further details around their proposal. An independent panel of industry experts evaluated submissions at each stage, and the panels valuation was included in a recommendation to the TEC Board. The process was overseen by an independent probity auditor from Audit New Zealand.

Construction sector COVE – ConCoVE

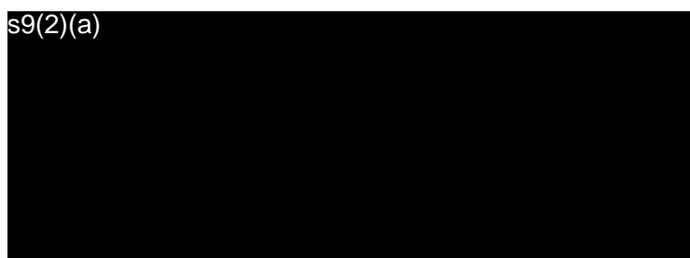
23. ConCoVE is currently made up of 42 members, predominantly from industry (including the Construction Sector Accord), and providers. This CoVE will be hosted by the NZIST through its subsidiary MIT. The ConCoVE proposal was led by Professor Martin Carroll, Executive General Manager Academic and Provost at MIT.
24. The consortium will drive and oversee a number of projects, focusing on five areas of concern or opportunity in the Construction sector:

- *Disruptions* – prepare the sector to manage future disruptions (for example, new technologies) through identifying these disruptions and developing training solutions.
- *Entry* – fundamentally reform entry level training by decreasing the time it takes for workers to be engaged in meaningful paid employment.
- *Productivity* – improve retention and productivity by developing an end-to-end career support service and linking it with career stage appropriate training, mentoring and networking.
- *Diversity* – provide tested solutions and opportunities to strengthen and diversify the construction sector workforce, particularly by increasing the number of Māori, Pacific people and women in hands-on roles.
- *Sustainability* – respond to the increasing demand for environmentally sustainable practices by incorporating sustainability into appropriate training.

Primary sector CoVE – Food and Fibre CoVE

25. The Food and Fibre Consortium is a significant collaboration of around 54 organisations across the entire food and fibre sector including industry associations, tertiary providers, Māori business, employers, employees and standard setting bodies. Establishing the Food and Fibre CoVE with its sector led approach, is a key result for the 115 member Food and Fibre Skills Establishment Group as it delivers on the Food and Fibre Skills Action Plan. It is also a decisive step forward in the partnership between the food and fibre sector and government.
26. This CoVE will be hosted by the NZIST through its subsidiary Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT). The consortium’s proposal was led by Jeremy Baker, Chief Insight Officer, Beef + Lamb New Zealand.
27. The CoVE’s intention is to build excellence in vocational education through focusing on the success of learners, industry and training. The key focus areas for this consortium are:
- *Attracting and retaining learners and staff* – from school to vocational education, to higher learning, and to, and in, the workforce.
 - *Defining vocational excellence* – explore and identify excellence in food and fibre vocational education, locally and internationally, focussed on learner and employer success and satisfaction.
 - *Specialised projects* – test and embed new ideas, innovations and specialised opportunities from across the regions and food and fibre sectors.

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Manager, Delivery and Projects
Delivery Directorate
11 August 2020

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
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Appendix 1: Summary of MIT's funding for 2020**Allocations by fund: 2020**

Fund	Indicative allocation	Final allocation	Amendments	Current approved allocation	Funded value commitment	Value of delivery
Totals	\$49,799,945	\$60,824,376	-\$213,165	\$60,611,211	\$44,210,585	\$23,845,069
ACE in TEIs	\$131,273	\$131,273	-	\$131,273	-	\$4,343
Equity Funding	\$420,295	\$751,495	\$0	\$751,495	-	-
ESOL - Intensive Literacy and Numeracy	\$344,422	\$1,499,978	-	\$1,499,978	\$1,499,978	\$431,186
ESOL - Refugee English Fund	\$110,180	\$110,180	-	\$110,180	-	-
Fees-free Payments	\$4,156,609	\$4,156,609	-	\$4,156,609	-	-
LN - Intensive Literacy and Numeracy	\$1,238,702	\$299,979	-	\$299,979	\$299,979	\$45,683
LN - Workplace Literacy Fund	-	\$73,296	-	\$73,296	\$73,296	\$10,536
MPTT (Brokerage)	-	\$139,725	-\$6,325	\$133,400	-	\$52,325
MPTT Consortium	-	\$1,211,260	-	\$1,211,260	-	-
MPTT Fees Top-Up	-	\$950,840	-\$206,840	\$744,000	-	\$426,866
Performance Based Research Fund	\$400,689	\$400,689	-	\$400,689	-	-
Secondary-Tertiary Interface	-	\$6,589,700	-	\$6,589,700	-	-
Student Achievement Component Levels 1 and 2	\$4,328,689	\$2,942,020	-	\$2,942,020	\$2,942,020	\$1,057,875
Student Achievement Component Levels 3 and above	\$35,103,150	\$36,896,378	-	\$36,896,378	\$36,896,381	\$20,719,732
Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund	-	\$2,169,016	-	\$2,169,016	-	-
Youth Guarantee	\$3,565,937	\$2,501,939	\$0	\$2,501,939	\$2,498,931	\$1,096,523

Appendix: Biographies of key attendees

Peter Winder, Chair of MIT Council



Peter Winder was appointed Chair in December 2013. He is a Director of McGredy Winder & Co, an Auckland based consulting firm providing services to central and local government and those who work, or engage with the public sector. He was Chief Executive of the Auckland Regional Council from 2005–2010, where he was previously Director Transport, and Chief Executive of Local Government New Zealand. Previously he was General Manager Industry Strategy at Tourism New Zealand.

Mr Winder was appointed to the Board of the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology Establishment Unit.

Gus Gilmore, Chief Executive of MIT



Gus Gilmore was educated at the University of Auckland with a Masters of Business Administration. He joined MIT in September 2016. Gus' focus at MIT is to provide great education for students and have them ready for their next steps in life and he is passionate about education parity for Māori & Pasifika. Prior to joining MIT he was Deputy Chief Executive, Operations at the Tertiary Education Commission where he had been focused on improving sector operational performance and delivery.

Professor Martin Carroll, ConCoVE Proposal Lead



Professor Martin Carroll is the Executive General Manager Academic and Provost at Manukau Institute of Technology. Professor Carroll has an extensive background in academic quality assurance and technology-enabled learning. His previous roles include Pro-Vice Chancellor at Charles Darwin University in Australia, where he led major advances in the online delivery of courses and worked closely with indigenous leadership to develop a bicultural Master's degree, and Audit Director and Business Manager for the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

Jeremy Baker, Food and Fibre CoVE Proposal Lead



Jeremy Baker is Chief Insights Officer at Beef + Lamb New Zealand. In this role he analyses the risks and opportunities facing the sheep and beef sector; identifies what the sector needs to know; and helps people decide what action to take in response to these issues. Jeremy's previous roles include Director of Strategy, Innovation and Communication at Wellington City Council, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Business Development at Lincoln University, and Executive Director for the Industry Training Federation.