

### **Student demand boosts 2017 enrolments on the West Coast**

West Coast student numbers at Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) have increased in 2017 as a result of strong student interest in popular programmes and new courses that target industry needs.

TPP West Coast General Manager Dr Teresa Schwellnus says the boost in enrolments for West Coast programmes is great news for both the Polytechnic and the wider community.

“Student enrolments at our Greymouth and Westport campuses have increased from 166 in 2016 to 198 this year. That’s a 19.2% increase and it’s great news; not only are we helping local people in to jobs, we are also making sure we are delivering the graduates that busy West Coast businesses need.

“While this is a great result we are still mindful of the challenges facing the Polytechnic and we need to keep encouraging more students to sign up to our programmes to ensure our future sustainability,” Dr Schwellnus says.

“We are working closely with our community and industry to make sure we’re delivering students who will fill the skills gaps in the region. For example, our redeveloped 2017 Cookery programme will turn out chefs that West Coast businesses are crying-out for. We also know that graduates of our Agriculture, Business and IT, Automotive, and Engineering programmes are in demand,” Dr Schwellnus says.

“In addition, our West Coast Trades Academy is more popular than ever before, with local high school students lining-up to take part.”

TPP’s Outdoor Education, Cookery, Jade and Hard Stone Carving and Agriculture programmes are all full for 2017.

TPP Chief Executive Alex Cabrera says that 2017 will see the Polytechnic focused on ensuring West Coasters have access to tertiary level vocational education and training that is effective, sustainable and of a high quality. “We are committed to delivering training that meets the needs of both our students and industry,” he says.

Students interested in Business, Computing and IT, Food and Beverage and Tourism programmes can also sign-up for mid-year programmes starting in July 2017. Contact TPP on 0800 TPP INFO or at [www.tpp.ac.nz](http://www.tpp.ac.nz) to find out more.

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