

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Press Release

Thursday 30 November 2017



Tai Poutini Polytechnic Welcomes NZQA report

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) is committed to continuing its journey of change, as it works towards ensuring quality, sustainable local tertiary vocational training for the West Coast.

The Polytechnic has received a Category 4 designation from the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) in its 2013-2017 External Evaluation Review (EER) - the lowest designation NZQA can assign.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Chief Executive Alex Cabrera says that while the report has only just been released, the Tai Poutini Polytechnic council, management and staff have been aware of the issues and have been working hard over the past year to address them.

“Quality is absolutely our number one priority: we need to get it right above and before all else,” Mr Cabrera says. “We’ve made good progress over the past year, and I am confident that TPP will continue to improve. The result is disappointing but not a surprise”

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Chair of Council Andrew Robb says that academic quality and financial improvement have been the focus over the last 12 months, and that there is no impact on qualifications or the student experience.

“It is no secret that Tai Poutini Polytechnic has faced a number of challenges over recent years and that significant changes were necessary. These changes gathered pace when the Crown Manager, Murray Strong started in 2016 and with the formation of a new Council,” says Mr Robb. “However, effective change takes time - and we want to get it right.”

Mr Robb is urging staff and students to use the report to fuel the transformation already underway at Tai Poutini Polytechnic, and to remain focused on a better, more sustainable future.

“The West Coast deserves vibrant, relevant, quality-focused tertiary vocational training, and it’s our job to make it happen. I’m proud of the Tai Poutini Polytechnic management team and staff who are leading and embracing the significant and rapid change required to achieve this.”

Mr Cabrera says the polytechnic will adapt to the new conditions the Category 4 designation brings, and that those leading Tai Poutini Polytechnic welcome them.

“Management and staff were working on the issues raised in the report for some time - many of the issues were identified internally in 2016. We are very open to both accepting, and responding to, the need for change.”

Mr Cabrera says he will continue to work with NZQA and the Tertiary Education Commission, as well as the high-quality tertiary provider that Tai Poutini is required to partner with under Category 4 requirements.

“The TPP staff will keep on with ensuring our students get the best we can give them, and that the change programme continues at pace. I am immensely proud of their efforts.”

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