



TPP quality rating improves following NZQA review

Tai Poutini Polytechnic has taken a positive step forward, improving its NZQA quality rating from a Category 4 to Category 3 following a range of positive initiatives over the past year.

NZQA found improvements across the board in TPP's latest External Evaluation and Review Report – the process that reports on the quality of education delivered by polytechnics.

TPP Chief Executive Alex Cabrera says the report is good news, however, further work is required to improve to a Category 2, which is the level needed to indicate NZQA has confidence in performance and self-assessment.

TPP has made many changes across the institute in recent times, to address key strategic and financial challenges, improve quality and performance, and reduce costs.

NZQA acknowledged this work, indicating progress in addressing the quality issues identified at the last review, progress to refocus on the West Coast's training needs, improving connections with stakeholders, improving processes and practices, and putting in place an organisational structure for future sustainability. However, NZQA is expecting further improvements over the coming year and will be working closely with TPP to ensure these are achieved.

Mr Cabrera says the findings of the review are a positive report on all the hard work underway over the past two years.

“However, there is still more work to do. Our focus remains on continued developments and improvements as we aim to further improve our NZQA rating by the end of this year. We will continue to work closely with NZQA to address the key priorities and targets required to build on progress. A further review will be held at the end of 2019, with TPP aiming to improve to a Category 2 rating.

“While the outcome of the previous review – which resulted in the Category 4 rating – was disappointing, TPP was already well-aware of the issues it faced and work was already underway to fix the problems.

“This is a big job, and TPP acknowledges that there is still work to be done. The latest NZQA report notes the ongoing need for improvement, but also offers a positive report on progress so far,” he says.

The NZQA report specifically noted:

- steady student achievement
- progress in reconnecting with local iwi and community
- changes made to delivery to more closely match the needs of students and industry
- student support more closely tracked
- improved monitoring and reporting processes and staff training.

In summary, the report found: “The changes made since the previous EER meet the agreed improvement plan and provide the potential for sustainably meeting the education and training needs of the West Coast.”

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You can read the full report at:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/bin/providers/download/provider-reports/6024.pdf>