

Trades Academy (STP) Advisory Group (TAAG): Terms of Reference

Background

In 2010, the Minister approved the establishment of several Secondary-Tertiary Programmes (STPs), more commonly known as Trades Academies. Since then, the total number of recognised STPs has grown to 22, of which all except one are established in a Trades (or Careers/Vocational) Academy model. 11 of these STPs are led by a school and 11 by a tertiary provider. Since 2010, STPs/Trades Academies have been one of the key initiatives within the Youth Guarantee programme. From 2014, 4500 STP places are available to senior students and over 250 schools are participating in STPs.

The key objectives of STPs are to:

- increase retention in education;
- raise student achievement of the NCEA Level 2 qualification as targeted by the Government's Better Public Service target; and
- improve transitions from secondary to further education and training and work.

STPs will achieve these objectives by:

- developing flexible, coherent and integrated learning programmes which best meet the needs of students;
- delivering effective pastoral care and co-ordination suited to the needs of individual students; and
- motivating students to stay engaged in learning and progress to tertiary education or training by offering them options which students perceive as relevant to their learning needs.
- building collaboration between schools and tertiary providers

Membership

The group as a whole is designed to broadly reflect key groups with an interest in the development and/or delivery of STPs. Members of the TAAG will be expected to contribute based on their expertise and experience in some or all of the secondary, tertiary and industry sectors. Members will be expected to have a working knowledge of the purpose and objectives of STPs and their administrative systems, with specialist knowledge of the particular set of stakeholders they reflect.

Members are expected to contribute based on the interests of the wider STP stakeholders and not just their own personal interests. It will be expected that where necessary wider stakeholders will have been consulted prior to meetings of the

TAAG (either via the individual member of the TAAG or via a wider consultation process managed by the TAAG secretariat).

Representation from two Secondary School Principals groups seeks to ensure the interests of the 264 secondary schools participating in STPs are represented.

The following will comprise the TAAG:

- MOE Trades Academy Chief Advisor (Chair)
- TEC Representative
- Secondary School Lead Provider Representative (*nominated by Secondary School Lead Providers, administered by the MOE*)
- 3x Tertiary Lead Provider Representatives (*nominated by Tertiary Lead Providers, reflecting the interests of ITPs, ITOs and PTEs, administered by the TEC*)
- 2x Secondary Principals (*1 nominated by the NZ Secondary Principals' Council and 1 nominated by Secondary Principals' Association of NZ*)
- 1 x Secondary Principal (nominated and administered by MOE, reflecting the interests of Māori participants).

Members will have a length of office up to two years. At which time the respective organisation noted above will nominate a new representative (this may be the incumbent TAAG representative).

MOE personnel will be invited to attend as required.

Role

The role of the Trades Academy (STP) Advisory Group (TAAG) will be to provide specialist advice and guidance to support:

- MOE and TEC officials in the development and refinement of the STP policy, operational systems and processes.
- the tracking of the high level STP/Youth Guarantee outcomes – achievement, retention and transitions.
- improving pastoral care and careers guidance within STPs, ensuring it better supports students and their families and whānau
- the ongoing improvement of student outcomes
- the development of more integrated, coherent learning programmes based on the Vocational Pathways

The TAAG's ambit will include all secondary school students, with a focus on students at risk of disengagement including Māori students, Pasifika students, and those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Process

The Group will initially be established for 12 months, with an option to extend after this. The Group is expected to meet in person twice per annum, with additional ad-hoc requests or meetings to be managed via email or tele/video-conference.

A review of these Terms of Reference and the TAAGs purpose and composition will be completed on an annual basis from the date first established.

Resourcing

The Ministry of Education will provide secretariat and administrative support to the TAAG. Appropriate officials from the Ministry of Education and other agencies will be invited to attend from time to time as required.

The Ministry will facilitate Advisory Group meetings by:

- funding appropriate travel, when the TAAG meets;
- providing a suitable meeting facility;
- providing a secretariat service for meetings; and
- providing suitable catering services for meetings.

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