

Barber Employer

Email to VocationalEducation.Reform@education.govt.nz.

Re: Feedback on Reform of Vocational Education

I am a barber and have run a successful business for many years.

There is a growing need for fully qualified people in our industry.

I'm concerned with some of the people who are being trained by the providers. The graduates they put out are often not ready for the fast-paced real-world work environment. This means we have to retrain them to meet our specific commercial needs.

The ITO system that we currently have allows trainees to complete their whole training in the workplace – which means better outcomes for me as an employer.

I agree that the overall system needs changes as the ITPs and polytechnics are failing and need government bail outs.

I am also concerned that I will not get the level of representation from industry in the new Industry Skills Bodies as I do in the ITO. If they only do standard setting role, there is a big risk that they will no longer understand the needs of our industry and what goes on in an actual barbershop. Now, the ITO reps visit us regularly, so they know what is going on.

My suggestion

Keep the ITOs going in the current form until you have the polytechnics sorted and they have proven their ability to provide people that are ready for the workplace.

Our industries are special, have a long history of apprentices. Don't change our system just to solve issues you have in other parts of the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.