

Employer Letter Beauty Therapy

Email to VocationalEducation.reform@education.govt.nz

Re: Feedback on Reform of Vocational Education

I am a beauty employer with a successful clinic. Until recently all graduates in our industry had international qualification. HITO has just recently established apprenticeship training for our industry and we are really pleased with how this is progressing. It is good to have a New Zealand qualification.

As an employer, I want the option of training that is fully based in the workplace and can be tailored specifically to the needs of my business. I'm concerned that making a national polytechnic responsible for managing the workplace training for all industries may not work as well as the current system.

The current institutes and polytechnics are not currently set up to provide training that is fully based in the workplace and I have concerns about how quickly a new institution would get up to speed on this.

Our current system with HITO ensures individualised training plans and support for trainers and apprentices in the workplace. The new polytechnic may not be able to provide such individualised attention.

I'm also concerned that the Industry Skills Bodies may not allow for the same level of input from employers as the current ITO Board which has representatives from our industries on it. Beauty Therapy businesses range from large national chains to small-town clinics. They all need to have their say on training and feel like they are represented.

Our needs are quite different to employers in other industries and we want a system that is responsive to our specific needs.

Overall, I support some reform to the vocational education, but want to ensure that what is not working well is not fixed at the expense of what is working well.

My suggestion - Keep the ITOs working as they are until the new polytechnic has demonstrated its ability to meet our workplace needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.