

Hairdressing Letter

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

Re: Feedback on Reform of Vocational Education

Hi,

I am a professional hair stylist. I was an apprentice myself and I am concerned about the idea of moving all the apprenticeship training to polytechnics.

The graduates from polytech are not ready for the fast-paced real-world work environment and often need to be retrained. And, if polytechs have to look after all of the different industries, they won't focus on what our industry needs.

The apprentices that work with ITOs can complete their whole training in the workplace so they get real skills needed in the job as well as getting their qualification.

They get properly trained by someone who is qualified and working everyday in the industry. And they get to earn some money at the same time, rather than getting a big student loan.

They also get visited by their sales and training advisor from the ITO who is someone that understands our industry and the skills needed to be successful.

I agree that there needs to be changes so the polytechnics don't keep needing government bail outs.

The ITOs don't have the same issues and I don't think you need to change the apprenticeships in the workplace that are working well.

My suggestion

Keep the ITOs going in the current form until you have the polytechnics sorted.

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.