



Bulletin – Tertiary Providers and International

12th June, 2020

COVID-19 Update

The Government is introducing a range of proposed amendments to the Education and Training Bill to assist the New Zealand education sector's recovery from COVID-19. The proposed changes are outlined below. We will update you once Parliament has voted on these proposed legislative changes, in the coming months.

Export Education Levy (EEL)

We recognise the financial hardship you are facing and the need to support the international education sector, while we look to reset and rebuild for the future.

We are now progressing legislative changes which would cancel the EEL payment obligations for enrolments in the 2020 and 2021 years. These changes would apply retrospectively so that any levies paid in respect of enrolments after 1 January 2020 would be repaid to providers. If the proposed changes are successful we will check if any payments have been made and contact the provider.

Providers will still be required to provide enrolment data as it provides us with important information about the international education sector and will help us to better understand the full impact of Covid-19 on international students and providers.

Extending Interim Code of Practice for Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students until 1 January 2022

Given the current focus on responding to and recovering from COVID-19, the Government intends to allow more time to develop the long-term Code of Pastoral Care and accompanying dispute resolution scheme for domestic tertiary students.

We are progressing legislative changes which would extend the existing Interim Code of Practice by one year so that it expires on 1 January 2022. A new provision will also allow the Minister of Education to make minor and technical changes to the Interim Code if needed.

Plans for wide engagement and consultation on the development of an on-going Code of Pastoral Care and dispute resolution scheme are being drawn up now. Tertiary education organisations, students, sector peak bodies and networks, and others with a stake in this process will be advised how and when they can participate.

NCEA offshore

We are now progressing legislative changes to temporarily provide NCEA to students while they are offshore.

Where approved by the Minister of Education, State and State-integrated schools will temporarily be able to provide tuition to their students based offshore who are unable to enter New Zealand due to the pandemic (there is nothing preventing private schools from doing this already).

Schools will also be able to temporarily provide NCEA to these students while they are offshore, where approved by NZQA in accordance with its Rules. NZQA will be given authority to grant consent to assess for specific standards – focussing on those standards that are more suitable to teaching, learning and assessment by distance.

These changes are time-limited and will expire on 1 January 2023. This will allow affected students who are in Year 11 in 2020, to continue their NCEA pathway through to Level 3. These provisions only apply in respect of students who have an existing 2020 enrolment with a New Zealand school.

Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:

For health advice, please refer to the Ministry of Health's website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For Cross-agency information about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), including health advice and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

To keep updated on travel restrictions and visa information visit

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wananga visit the Ministry of Education website <http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>