



Briefing Note: Ako Aotearoa's review of the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	6 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose of Report

This briefing, and the attached summary document, provide background information on Ako Aotearoa's review of the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards (TTEA).

Summary

- The TTEA were established in 2001 to celebrate and promote sustained excellence in tertiary teaching.
- Ako Aotearoa is reviewing the TTEA in response to concerns that the awards are not sufficiently inclusive of the diversity of the tertiary education sector.
- Ako Aotearoa proposes to replace the existing awards with new awards from 2022. It will consult the sector during July and August on two options for the new awards.
- Both options focus on the concept of ako rather than individual excellence, and would require evidence of impact and learner endorsement.
- We will advise you on Ako Aotearoa's recommendations for changes to the TTEA, and options for launching the new awards once Ako Aotearoa completes its sector consultation.

Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you and any changes to the awards have been announced.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree.



Kieran Forde
Acting Senior Policy Manager
Tertiary Education Policy
6/07/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
15/7/21

Background

- 1 The Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards (TTEA) were established in 2001 to celebrate and promote sustained excellence in tertiary teaching. Ako Aotearoa manages the awards and encourages nominations from any education organisation that receives Tertiary Education Commission funding.
- 2 Up to 10 Sustained Excellence Awards of \$20,000 each are awarded annually, with provision for awards under the General and the Kaupapa Māori Categories. An Excellence in Supporting Pacific Learners endorsement (with an additional \$5,000 grant) is also available. The Prime Minister's Supreme Award (with an additional \$10,000 grant), is awarded to the nominee whose portfolio best exemplifies the overall criteria.

Ako Aotearoa's review

- 3 Ako Aotearoa is reviewing the TTEA in response to concerns that the awards are not sufficiently inclusive of the diversity of the tertiary education sector. The review is considering how quality teaching can be better recognised across under-represented groups, such as Māori, Pacific peoples, and in work-based learning, foundation education, and adult and community education.
- 4 Ako Aotearoa proposes to replace the existing awards with new awards from 2022.
- 5 Ako Aotearoa will consult the sector during July and August on two options for the new awards:
 - Option 1 - Individual Awards + Group Awards. This approach would retain the current model of individual awards, but would add team/collective awards as well.
 - Option 2 - Awards only focused on teams/groups of teachers.
- 6 Ako Aotearoa identified these options after a significant stocktake of relevant national and international awards, and feedback and advice from key stakeholders and a reference group.
- 7 Both options would align with the Tertiary Education Strategy. They focus on the concept of ako rather than individual excellence, and would require evidence of impact and learner endorsement.
- 8 Ako Aotearoa intends the establishment of the new awards to be cost neutral.
- 9 The attached summary document provides further information on the review.

Comment

- 10 We support Ako Aotearoa's intention to expand the reach of the awards across the tertiary education sector and recognise better quality teaching for learners currently underserved by the education system. However, we would want to see the prestige of the existing awards maintained. We have raised this in our discussions with Ako Aotearoa.

Timeframes and next steps

- 11 We will advise you on Ako Aotearoa's recommendations for changes to the TTEA, and options for launching the new awards once Ako Aotearoa completes its sector consultation.
- 12 Ako Aotearoa expects the new awards could be launched in October 2021, with nominations due in June 2022.

Proactively Released

Annex 1: Review of Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards – Summary Document

Proactively Released