



## Education Report: Ngarimu VET scholarship pack

<b>To:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education – (Māori Education)		
<b>Date:</b>	10 June 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1261533
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This paper provides you with an updated application pack and launch details for the Ngarimu Board vocational education and training (VET) scholarships for the 2021/2022 year. The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- Agree** to open the VET scholarships application period on Monday 21 June, or as soon as possible, and accept applications for VET scholarships until 1 September.  
**Agree / Disagree**
- Agree** VET applicants have the option of submitting a portfolio of work in place of, or alongside, academic results.  
**Agree / Disagree**
- Note** officials will report back to Ngarimu Board on options and costs to translate of all Ngarimu scholarship application packages and media package into te reo Māori for the next round of scholarships.
- Note** officials have asked Ngarimu Board to agree to include a provision for VET scholarship recipients to provide a letter of support from their study supervisor and/or an iwi or hapū representative of their choice at the time of their acceptance. This will be updated on the website after 2 July.



Eleonora Sparagna  
**Senior Policy Manager**  
Te Ara Kaimanawa

10/06/2021



Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)**

1 / 7 / 2021

## Background

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1. The Ngarimu Act 1945 empowers the Ngarimu Board (the Board) to create a vocational education scholarship alongside existing scholarships, using a similar process. On 7 April 2021, the Board agreed to create three additional scholarships, each worth \$10,000, for students who are engaged in vocational education and training (VET) and studying towards certificates or diplomas, worth 120 credits or more, at levels 5 to 7 non-degree.
2. After several years of declining enrolments, in 2020 Māori participation in VET at levels 5 to 7 increased slightly. Early projections show a 10% increase in participation of Māori learners in levels 5 to 7 non-degree VET for the first four months of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020. There are currently 8,900 Māori learners enrolled in levels 5 to 7 non-degree VET.

## Application Pack

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3. Officials have updated the application pack for existing Ngarimu scholarships to better reflect the VET learners' pathway, including that:
  - VET learner pathways do not always align with the academic year. Learners can start a programme at any point in the year with either a tertiary education provider or with an employer on-the-job;
  - academic transcripts may not be available for some VET programmes; and
  - VET learners engaged in work-based learning have less access to student support services in comparison to learners at university or in provider-based VET.

The online application pack will also be updated to reflect these changes.

4. Currently, scholarship recipients are required to provide milestone updates three times a year to the Ngarimu Board through the Secretariat. If a scholarship recipient is experiencing difficulties, the learner must explicitly say so, however, whakamā may stop many from doing this. The current lack of structured pastoral support for some VET learners means they are at greater risk of not receiving the support they may need.
5. Officials consider the milestone updates to be a good opportunity to identify where further support may be needed for VET learners and suggest aligning milestone reporting for VET scholarship recipients with existing milestone reporting timelines. This will provide consistency, as well as opportunities for recipients to seek support at regular touchpoints. As per other scholarship recipients, the Secretariat will connect with the Board on an exception basis if concerns arise as part of the regular milestone reporting.
6. To further mitigate the risk that VET learners experiencing difficulties do not receive the support they need, and to ensure a strong network of connections, officials propose that this year's VET scholarship recipients provide a letter of support from their study supervisor and/or an iwi or hapū representative of their choice (kaumatua, marae chair, iwi/hapū board trustee etc) at the time of acceptance of the scholarship. This will ensure the learners' hapori are included to celebrate and/or support them as needed throughout their study journey.
7. The majority of VET learners eligible for a VET scholarship are likely to be enrolled at Te Pūkenga. Te Pūkenga is progressing work to better capture student voices in VET and create a student association across Te Pūkenga's subsidiaries to provide more support to VET learners. This work is being led by Tania Winslade (Ngāti Awa), Deputy Chief Executive of Learner Journey and Experience at Te Pūkenga, and former Ngarimu

scholarship recipient. Officials will continue to remain closely in touch with Te Pūkenga and update the Board on how this work will impact VET scholarship recipients' student welfare support for next year.

8. Given the variety of VET pathways, courses, and programmes, the achievement of VET learners is not always clearly represented by academic results or a written record. Officials propose an option is included in the application pack for VET learners, when appropriate, to submit a portfolio in place of academic results to better demonstrate their high performance and achievement. This would provide an opportunity for those studying more practical and hands-on programmes to demonstrate their abilities. However, VET applicants can still submit academic results if that best displays their achievements.

### Scholarship Launch

9. Following the existing scholarship reporting timeline is important to maximise the visibility of the VET scholarships, ensure alignment of evaluation panels and Board decisions, and to award the new VET scholarships alongside the existing ones.
10. As well as the logistical benefits, doing so signals that VET scholarships, and vocational education more generally, are of equal relevance as other tertiary education pathways. It is important the awards and recipients be treated with the same mana. Awarding VET scholarships alongside the existing scholarships gives effect to this.
11. Applications for existing Ngarimu scholarships opened on 24 May and will close on 8 August. Officials are seeking your agreement to open the VET scholarship applications on 21 June, or as soon as possible. As with any new product, it will take time to build awareness of the new VET scholarships amongst potential recipients. Officials propose extending the application period for VET only until 1 September to maximise opportunities to promote the new scholarships.
12. To further mitigate the risk due to a lack of awareness, the Ministry of Education (MoE) will work closely with Te Pūkenga and the Tertiary Education Commission's communications team to promote the new scholarships to their networks whilst also utilizing MoE's social media channels.
13. We seek your agreement to the launch of the VET scholarships (Annex Two) and note we are seeking Ngarimu Board members' support to promote the VET scholarships through their networks to ensure maximum visibility and time for VET learners to apply.

### Next Step

14. Applications for scholarships can be received in English or te reo Māori but the application forms are predominately in English. Given the importance of the Ngarimu scholarships to Māori education, officials propose having all material, including the VET application forms and promotional materials, translated into te reo Māori to reflect the mana of our reo and the sacrifices the Māori battalion members made for te iwi Māori. While this work is not possible this year given the time constraints, officials will report back to the Ngarimu Board on options and costs to translate all Ngarimu scholarship application forms, and media pack, in preparation for the next round of scholarships.

## Annexes

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### Annex One

VET Application pack

### Annex Two

VET Launch material

Proactively Released