



Government Reform of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System

The Government has now finalised its Reform of the Vocational Education (ROVE) system. Outlined below is a summary of the changes and what they mean for the Flooring Industry.

Introduction

There are seven major changes:

- Putting industry in charge
- Ensuring regional skill needs are met
- Te Taumata Aronui
- On institute with campuses around the country
- Bringing on-the-job and off-the-job training together by the end of 2022
- Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVEs)
- Unifying the vocational education funding system

Structure of the new system

Today	Tomorrow
Tertiary Education Commission (TEC, funding body)	Will remain the funding body
New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA, controls the qualifications framework)	Will work with the new Workforce Development Councils to approve qualifications and moderate assessments
No equivalent	Regional Skills Leadership Groups will facilitate dialogue about regional labour market needs and provide advice about the skills their regions need to the TEC, Workforce Development Councils and local training providers
Industry Training Organisations (ITOs including BCITO)	Will be disestablished and replaced with Workforce Development Councils (WDCs). The one covering Flooring will be the Construction and Infrastructure WDC. Their mandate will change to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry leadership • Setting standards and qualifications • Moderating assessments

Polytechnics	The current Polytechnics will all be amalgamated into one organisation called the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology which will have regional sites around New Zealand. This will ensure consistency of provision with no competition between sites and a clear mandate to reflect the skills needs of their region which will be guided by the Regional Skills Leadership Groups.
Training providers (Private Training Establishments including the ATI)	The role of the training provider changes to incorporate both on and off job training. This moves the current on-job training role carried out by an ITO to the training provider enabling a learner to be managed by the same organisation whether they are training in a learning institution or on the job.
No equivalent	Te Taumata Aronui is a Maori-Crown tertiary education group designed to meet Maori and Pasifika learning needs
No equivalent	Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVEs) will drive innovation and excellence in teaching and learning and improve links to industries and communities
TEC approved funding	Unified vocational education funding system designed to encourage the growth of work-integrated delivery models

What does this mean for the Flooring Industry

FloorNZ is in a unique position to take advantage of these new reforms. We are the only construction Trade Association who owns a Private Training Establishment (PTE) with the Allied Trade Institute (ATI) which currently provides block course apprenticeship training to the industry.

We have strong industry support from all sectors of the industry from suppliers and manufacturers through to retailers and installers. This support will mean that the transition to running the on-job training for our apprentices will not be that difficult.

How does this fit with the current training provided for the Flooring Industry

The Government's intent is that vocational education providers would be able to offer a complete 'workforce development service' to employers from pre-employment training through to professional development.

FloorNZ, using the ATI, has already developed the groundwork for this process. We have already signalled and gained support from the industry for a career pathway from Basic Skills training aimed at the pre-employment market, through to apprenticeship (which in the

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future we will be running through the ATI) to licensing with the Licensed Flooring Practitioner (LFP) Programme. This clearly fits with the Government's intent outlined above.

The timeframe for the reforms intends that the legislation to establish the Workforce Development Councils and Institutes will be approved in April 2020. This date has also been set for the announcement of the unified funding system. While the final date for all training to be transferred from the current ITOs to Training Providers is December 2022 there is no reason why this can't be initiated once the legislation is passed and the funding systems set up. Consequently, FloorNZ and the ATI will be working on a plan to move to the new system as soon as possible.

If you would like any further information on the Government initiatives, please contact me at kari@floornz.org.nz.

Regards

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