

Overview of Changes to the Careers System - Fact sheet

An effective careers system

An effective careers system is focused on what students need and provides high quality and easy to find information and advice in one place. High quality careers education needs to show students how their learning links to work and study options.

Proposed changes to the careers system

The Government is proposing to transfer Careers New Zealand's functions into the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). This will make use of the TEC's ability to work with tertiary providers and employers so they can provide better careers information to schools, and coordinate with schools and employers on the skill needs of the labour market. Improving connections between educators and employers will support students to successfully transition to further study and employment.

This change also recognises that the recent strong performance of Careers New Zealand leaves it well positioned to become a highly effective part of a more integrated careers service within the Tertiary Education Commission.

Transferring Careers New Zealand's functions into the Tertiary Education Commission will require a legislative change. If legislation is passed, all Careers New Zealand staff, with the exception of the Chief Executive, will be offered employment by the TEC on equivalent terms and conditions. Over time, the resources that support schools to offer careers services to learners that have been delivered by Careers New Zealand will be transferred to the schooling sector. The Ministry will engage with the schooling sector to work out how best to utilise these resources to support the provision of careers services in schools and Communities of Learning.

The TEC's careers role will then be focused on the provision of careers information and strengthening connections between education and employment. The Careers New Zealand brand will continue to operate within the TEC.

Schools play a key role in providing careers advice and education. As part of the changes, we are exploring how to make it easier for the schooling sector to share careers resources and expertise across schools and Communities of Learning. This is a long-term change and the Ministry will work with the sector on how it can be achieved.

Implementation of the transfer of functions to the TEC

- Legislation to disestablish careers New Zealand and transfer its staff and resources to the TEC is scheduled to be passed in early 2017.
- If the legislation is passed, the TEC will take over responsibility for the careers functions on the date of enactment.
- A six month transition period will then follow where the TEC will work to organise its resources with its new functions.
- Activities to implement service improvements are likely to continue beyond the transition period.