Bulletin – Tertiary Providers and International

25th June, 2020

**Update on International Students**

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the international education sector. Since January, education agencies, peak bodies and providers have worked to ensure that the 50,000 students in New Zealand were well-looked after and that providers had good information and guidance to support them in their roles as the impacts of COVID-19 unfolded.

We know that the handling of the COVID-19 virus has further strengthened our reputation as a safe and welcoming country. We want to thank the sector for working with us over the last few months to address key issues together.

Getting students back into New Zealand is a critical step for re-starting the international education sector. However public health considerations remain paramount to any decision to make changes to current border restrictions.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is continuing to lead cross-government work on quarantine and managed isolation and the Ministry of Education is an active participant in these discussions. This includes giving voice to the perspectives of the international education sector in all discussions on border operations and managing demand for entry across sectors.

This is a complex issue with many details to be worked though including, how they will travel safely from the moment they arrive in New Zealand, how those in quarantine and isolation will be monitored to ensure they follow the rules, and how the costs for quarantine and isolation can be shared by the people arriving.

As advised by Minister Hipkins in a letter to Peak Bodies, international students will not be returning to New Zealand in July or August this year. We hope that a suitable model can be developed so we can start to bring in small cohorts of students and begin building up towards 2021.

A formal peak body advisory group has been established to enable the sector to provide input and information that will further strengthen the case for international students to be given priority for early entry into New Zealand before the border is fully re-opened.

Next month, we will share a strategic recovery plan for international education in New Zealand. This plan runs over four years and has concurrent workstreams stabilising the sector, strengthening the system, and then transforming to a more robust, sustainable future state that is good for providers and learners, and benefits New Zealand.

We look forward to continuing to work closely together with you to ensure that the International Education sector emerges stronger and more resilient from this challenging time.

**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/>

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