

**New Zealand's Review of Industry Training Policy:
a small step forward or the start of something new?**

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New Zealand has embarked on a full review of its vocational education and training policy. The review is being led by a small group of government officials and has so far produced an initial paper that outlines key issues for consultation and resolution. The fundamental question raised is how can the government's role in contributing to social goals be best combined with an effective industry-led strategy?

The New Zealand industry training system is only eight years old, however in this time participation has increased almost four-fold and has extended to industries with little or no history of structured industry training. Problems do exist, however, such as the low participation of 16 – 21 year olds, industries that do not participate, and significant disjunction between industry training and other forms of tertiary education based in institutions.

This paper explores the key challenges for New Zealand VET sector, the role of representative organisations and the importance of research and evaluation as the basis for policy. Specifically, the paper identifies information gaps that require New Zealand to adopt a more research-led policy process and engage more effectively with stakeholders.