

Trades Academy Advisory Group Meeting 27 March 2014 - Draft Minutes

Venue: MOE, Justice Centre Level 1, Room 1.9, Kate Sheppard Place, Wellington

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Representing / Role
Tina Sims	Ministry of Education	Chair
Shaaron Adams	Top of the South TA	School Lead Providers
Fiona Beardslee	Primary ITO	Tertiary Lead Providers
Richard Crawford	Fairfield College	SPANZ – Secondary Schools
Linda Fox	Kelston Girls High School	NZSPC – Secondary Schools
Arthur Graves	Ministry of Education	National Manager, YG
Claire Hague	Eastern Institute of Technology	Tertiary Lead Providers
Janet Hay	Tertiary Education Commission	TEC Representative
Ryan Perry	Ministry of Education	Secretariat
Keith Silveira	Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Paretere	Māori – Secondary Schools
Nigel Udy	Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre	Tertiary Lead Providers

Alternates: Richard Crawford (for Kelvin Whiting), Fiona Beardslee (for Tracey Shepherd)

Apologies: Kelvin Whiting, Tracey Shepherd

1) Welcome / Introductions

Tina Sims (TS) welcomed all Members to the first meeting of the Trades Academy Advisory Group (TAAG). The Ministry expressed appreciation to all Members who had agreed to participate in the TAAG and also noted the significant interest among wider stakeholders.

2) Strategic Overview

Arthur Graves (AG) provided a high level strategic overview of the Advisory Group's purpose and role of Secondary-Tertiary Programmes – Trades Academies within the wider Youth Guarantee (YG) programme. Key points are noted below:

- Trades Academies are not just trades, but wider vocational learning opportunities
- Trades Academies are a key component of the wider YG aim of reaching the one out of five students, and the two out of five Māori students who don't achieve NCEA L2
- Trades Academies/STPs are a student centred component of the YG programme
- The YG Monitoring Report looking at the impacts of Trades Academies and YG Fees Free has identified the significant positive impact of participating in a Trades Academy
 - Retention - 99% of TA participants being retained in education at age 17 compared with 87% for a comparable group
 - Achievement – 83% of TA participants achieving NCEA L2 or equivalent at age 18 compared with 70% for the comparable group
- A wide range of data is being identified and made available to schools to aid achievement, retention and transitions

- Coherent programmes of learning a key target for 2014 (programmes including work experience/work ready skills, vocational pathways, and core learning skills delivered in way that complements vocational learning elements – contextualised learning)
- Contextualised learning resources will be made available this year to aid teachers in developing programmes – work is being led by the Ministry, but being delivered by industry and education stakeholders

3) Terms of Reference

Members approved the TAAG's Terms of Reference with minor changes made to reflect process elements (such as term of office and annual review) and the Advisory Group's role.

Action TAAG14/01/01: MOE to revise the draft Terms of Reference and issue this to TAAG Members and wider STP/TA stakeholders.

4) 2013 Outcomes

Ryan Perry (RP) outlined the provisional national student outcomes of STPs/TAs in 2013. Indicative data showed that over 4,000 student's utilised funded places during 2013, with achievement and destination data looking very positive. Confirmed NZQA results and data would be published later this year.

5) Operational Guidelines

The TAAG reviewed the drafted Operational Guidelines prepared by RP. Several changes were recommended to the document to ensure clarity around key points such as STP/Trades Academy programme design, student eligibility and participating school eligibility/priorities (including the legal terminology used to define various Composite school types).

Action TAAG14/01/02: MOE to incorporate the various recommended changes to the Operational Guidelines. Once refined the guidelines are to be circulated to TAAG Members for final review before publishing.

The group highlighted the need for further thinking around the progression of Year 12 STP/TA students into Level 3. Often, programmes such as those completed within the STP/TA were not available in Year 13 so schools were left being unable to deliver adequate transitions into Level 3-4. The TAAG agreed to add to the STP/TA issue register.

6) Strategic Priorities for 2014

TS presented the high level strategic priorities for STPs/TAs in 2014. The TAAG discussed each priority in detail, specifically discussing:

- The difficulties in implementing Vocational Pathways (VPs) within schools, with awareness still not high within many schools (in particular teachers/deans). TAAG agreed implementing VPs within STPs/TAs was achievable for 2015. VP guidance must also be published in Māori.

- The key issue for implementing integrated programmes of learning was time, and balancing school and tertiary teaching needs. This was a particular issue for schools where places were less than a full class cohort.
- The TAAG requested more information regarding the particular STP/TA delivery models in operation in 2014. This data would be used to aid initial discussions regarding the effectiveness of each model type in delivering positive student outcomes.
- The TAAG noted further professional development of teachers in the secondary-tertiary interface would aid various strategic priorities, noting the benefits potentially available from secondary and tertiary staff sharing knowledge and best practice.

Action TAAG14/01/03: MOE to develop a summary paper outlining the various STP/TA models of delivery currently in operation. A discussion paper will be prepared for discussion at the next TAAG meeting.

7) Operational Processes and Updates for 2014

RP provided an updates regarding several operational activities for 2014:

- As at 3 March 2014, indicative data from Lead Providers showed that over 4,250 students were currently enrolled in STPs/TAs, very positive utilisation rates when compared to 2013. The proportion of Māori students in 2014 had dropped to 35% from 38% in 2013.
- The Ministry would be working with the few Lead Providers with significant under-utilisation to determine if the places would be used in 2014 or if places should be re-allocated. All stakeholders would be contacted once it was known how many places would be available to re-allocate for 2014 only.
- Initial feedback from the Ministry's School Returns team regarding the March 1 return indicate that STP reporting processes are now more clearly understood by schools, with issues and queries significantly lower than in 2013.
- A new version of the Staffing and Funding Guideline Documentation for Schools Participating in Secondary-Tertiary Programmes would be published in advance of the June/July school returns.

8) Any Other Business

TS outlined the focus of the 2014 Trades Academy Lead Provider Conference would be on the development and implementation of integrated learning programmes and vocational pathways. The workshop will be held in Wellington on the 27th May 2014.

Janet Hay noted that the Te Ara Whakamana national conference was being held in Wellington on the 30th June and 1st July. The conference would focus on various student pathways and transition issues. RP and TS agreed to investigate further and confirm how the MOE would be participating in the event.

The next meeting of the TAAG will be held in Wellington in September. Further information will be provided in due course.