



Daryl Streat
President
TESOLANZ

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Dear Daryl

The Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, has asked me to reply to your letter of 14 October 2020 about issues affecting the ESOL teaching sector as a result of COVID-19. I appreciate you sharing your concerns.

Both the Government and Ministry of Education acknowledge COVID-19 has had a significant impact across the whole international education sector. I assure you ESOL teaching and learning is an important and valued part of the sector.

As you are aware, the International Education Recovery Plan included a total of \$51.6 million for the international education sector, including the \$1.5 million Private Training Establishment (PTE) ESOL Provision Fund, and \$10 million to support PTEs of strategic importance, including English Language Schools. The Plan also includes \$20 million for state and state-integrated schools to continue employing the specialist international workforce they need to provide teaching and pastoral care to international students, and this can include ESOL teachers.

There are a number of other supports available to organisations with international students, including the COVID-19 Employer Wage Subsidy and extensions. As you will appreciate, the Government has a number of competing demands which require funding, and has to prioritise expenditure across the wider Government work programme.

It is important to note all New Zealand universities and Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology are autonomous institutions, and make their own decisions about staffing issues. For this reason, the Ministry is unable to intervene in any matters relating to employment.

I also note your comments about Category 1 PTE providers. Category 1 providers were prioritised for the PTE ESOL Provision Fund as they received a 'highly confident' judgement for their educational performance. This considers the extent to which the educational outcomes achieved represent quality and value for learners and the wider community. There are a significant number of Category 1 PTEs who deliver ESOL courses, and as you recognise, the size of the fund is unlikely to allow funding for Category 2 PTE providers. To ensure coverage for all eligible students, organisations eligible for Adult and Community Education funding who deliver ESOL provision are also able to access this fund.

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for writing, and I wish you and everyone at TESOLANZ all the very best.

Yours sincerely

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Te Ara Kaimanawa