

Driving economic development through stronger tertiary-workforce alignment

Introduction

Aligning tertiary education with workforce needs is crucial for economic development. This briefing paper discusses how the Manako professional development programmes align with skills gaps identified by the PIAAC report.

The Manako programme is provided by Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence (NCTTE), and was formerly known as the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability (ALNACC) programme. The Manako programme continues our partnership with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to enhance educational capability across Aotearoa New Zealand. Embracing our roots and expertise in literacy, numeracy, and both Māori and Pacific cultural capability, the Manako programme expands our commitment to delivering inclusive and effective education, informed by the values and needs of all New Zealanders.

PIAAC is the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, and an initiative of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD is an international, intergovernmental organisation with 38 Member countries, whose message is “Better policies for better lives”.

Current initiatives

The Manako programme offers a range of professional development opportunities with a focus on workforce development, including Workplace language, literacy, and numeracy (LLN), webinars, and connection through extensive networks across the tertiary education sector.

Effectiveness and challenges

While these opportunities may have been effective in addressing some skills gaps, the PIAAC report indicates that significant gaps remain, particularly in areas like digital literacy and adaptive problem solving.



Recommendations for the tertiary education sector and career transition spaces

» Targeted training:

- » Develop training programmes that specifically address the skills gaps identified by the PIAAC report.

» Employer partnerships:

- » Strengthen partnerships with employers to ensure training programmes meet industry needs.

» Lifelong learning:

- » Promote a culture of lifelong learning to encourage continuous skill development.

Conclusion

Aligning tertiary education outcomes with workforce needs is essential for economic growth. By addressing skills gaps and providing professional development programmes, the Manako programme can help build the capability of tertiary educators as they prepare tertiary learners for the workforce.

