

Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Aide-Memoire: Closure of private training establishment

То:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Vocational Education
From:	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
Date:	27 March 2025
Reference:	OC01627

Purpose

 This aide memoire is to notify you that we intend to cancel the registration of Aotearoa Career Management Institute (ACMI) as a private training establishment (PTE) during the week of 31 March 2025.

Recommendations

- 2. We recommend that you:
 - a. **note** that NZQA is preparing to cancel the registration of ACMI and notify the provider of this decision
 - b. note that ACMI currently has approximately 70 international and 30 domestic learners enrolled
 - c. **note** that we are working with other agencies to facilitate the transition of affected learners to other education providers
 - d. **note** that the Minister of Education and the Minister for Universities have given inprinciple approval to use the Export Education Levy to compensate affected international learners as appropriate
 - e. **agree** to proactively release this briefing, with any relevant redactions, following the completion of the closure process.

Agree / Disagree

Dr Grant Klinkum Chief Executive, NZQA 27 March 2025

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Vocational Education
____/ ___ / ____/

Background

- 3. On 24 February 2025, we advised ACMI that we were considering cancelling its registration due to:
 - a. serious assessment and moderation failures
 - b. lack of capability to prepare and implement an improvement plan
 - c. poor administrative practices
 - d. low confidence in its ability to meet NZQA rules and requirements now or in the future.
- ACMI provided a response on 6 March 2025. We have determined ACMI's response has not adequately addressed our concerns. We do not have confidence in ACMI's ability to deliver high quality education to learners.
- 5. ACMI currently has 71 international and 30 domestic learners across four programmes in health care, cybersecurity, tourism and IT.
- The domestic learners enrolled at ACMI have not paid fees as their programmes were offered with zero fees by ACMI. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has suspended funding to ACMI.

The closure process

- We expect to notify ACMI of our decision on 31 March 2025. ACMI's learners will be notified the following day.
- We are working closely with Immigration New Zealand (INZ), the Ministry of Education (MoE), Public Trust and the TEC to ensure that the disruption to learners is minimised as much as possible.
- 9. Alongside INZ and Public Trust, we will meet with affected learners and provide them with the information they need to make an informed decision about their studies.
- 10. We have identified alternative education providers who offer similar programmes, where learners will be able to resume their studies. We expect that due to the quality concerns identified at ACMI, other providers are likely to require learners to go through a recognition of prior learning process to assess their actual level of knowledge and skills and where to place them in their programmes.

Risks and mitigations



- **C**.
- 14. Media attention is most likely in the 24-48 hours following the delivery of the cancellation notice to ACMI, once staff and learners are informed.
- 15. The Minister of Education and the Minister for Universities, as the responsible ministers, have given in-principle approval for use of the Export Education Levy (EEL) to support ACMI's international learners (METIS 1344787 refers). We have proposed the use of the EEL to reimburse fees the learners paid to ACMI, visa variation costs and costs associated with recognition of prior learning at other providers.
- 16. Use of the EEL to minimise the financial impact to affected international learners minimises potential negative reputational impacts for New Zealand as an education destination.

Next steps

- 17. We are completing preparations to deliver the notice to cancel ACMI's PTE registration on 31 March 2025 and to meet with the affected learners in the same week.
- 18. We will share reactive communications to address media queries with your office and will be available to assist where needed.
- 19. We intend to proactively release this briefing, with any relevant redactions, following completion of the closure process.