



Bulletin – Tertiary Students

12th June, 2020

Education and Training Bill update – Extending Interim Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of Domestic Students

Parliament is currently considering the Education and Training Bill which aims to give all learners a more high-quality, culturally responsive, seamless and inclusive education, from early learning, through schooling, and on into tertiary education, vocational training and employment.

The Minister of Education is proposing to make changes to the Bill to extend the Education (Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students) Interim Code of Practice by one year, to January 2022.

This is to allow time for full consultation on a long-term Code of Pastoral Care and a dispute resolution scheme.

If this becomes laws, the Interim Code could be in place for a year longer than intended. In the meantime, a new provision will allow the Minister to make minor and technical changes to the Interim Code if needed.

Why is this change happening?

Tertiary education providers, learners and those who work in the sector have been responding to the immediate impact of COVID-19 and it is not possible for them to put energy into the development of a long-term Code on the timelines originally set out.

The change allows time for the regulated groups, beneficiaries of the regulation and others to participate in developing the long term Code.



How long will the Interim Code be in place for?

If the legislation changes, the Interim Code could remain in place until 1 January 2022.

What does this change mean for students?

The Interim Code continues to cover students so that they feel protected, respected and supported in their learning. This Interim Code will apply for 2020 and 2021.

Under the Interim Code, your tertiary organisation should be able to help you to feel safe, physically and mentally; respected and accepted for who you are; supported in your learning and wellbeing; connected with your social and cultural networks; and able to have your say in decisions about services.

You can participate in the development of the long term Code of Pastoral Care and a new dispute resolution scheme.

If you have questions or issues about the Interim Code and how it is being implemented, talk to your provider first. If you still think there may be a breach of the Interim Code, you can make a complaint to the Code Administrator (NZQA).

What is happening about a dispute resolution scheme?

Work on developing a dispute resolution scheme will continue alongside development of the on-going Code. Students with complaints about their pastoral care under the Interim Code should talk to their providers first and if they have any unresolved issues contact NZQA.

What is happening to ensure the Interim Code is being implemented effectively?

The Interim Code is in effect now and NZQA is monitoring compliance with the Interim Code. NZQA has published guidance to help providers implement the Interim Code effectively and will be offering online workshops to help providers over the next few months.

If students have questions or issues about the Code and how it is being implemented, they should talk to their provider first. If they still think there may be a breach of the Code, they can make a complaint to the Code Administrator (NZQA).

When will engagement and consultation on the development of an on-going Code of Pastoral Care and dispute resolution scheme happen?

Plans for wide engagement and consultation on the development of an on-going Code of Pastoral Care and dispute resolution scheme are being drawn up now. Tertiary education providers, student and sector peak bodies and networks, and others with a stake in the Code and the dispute resolution scheme will be advised how and when they can participate.

What does this mean for tertiary education organisations?

The Education (Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students) Interim Code of Practice 2019 is already in effect so tertiary providers will continue implementing the Interim Code, reviewing current practices and policies to make sure they align with the Interim Code.

Tertiary education providers, staff, peak bodies, learners, iwi and others can participate in the development of the long-term Code and a dispute resolution scheme.

Tertiary education providers can participate in workshops and use the recently published guidance by NZQA to help them implement the Interim Code.

Tertiary education providers will listen to student voices and use this information when making decisions around the planning and provision of student support services.

Tertiary education providers will maintain systems to address student complaints. If students have any unresolved issues, they should be informed they can escalate their concern to the Code Administrator (NZQA).

If you need help to stay in learning:



Financial

If you need financial support while you study, help is available
Give Studylink a call 0800 88 99 00 or visit [Studylink](#)

If you're on a main benefit or not getting any support from Studylink
call Work and Income 0800 55 00 99 or visit [Work and Income](#)



Wellbeing

If you're worried about your well-being, you are not alone - help is available:

Talk to friends and whānau to help you cope.

Talk to your education provider about how to get in touch with their well-being services.

Contact your GP or local community health centre.

Contact [Youthline](#) 0800 376 633

Need To Talk by calling or texting 1737

[The Lowdown](#) Free text number 5626

Or use some of the tools available at [Melonhealth](#) or [Alright](#) .