

# **Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics Quality**

**Mana Kounga ä-Pütahi Hangarau, ä-Kuratini**

## **Academic Audit**

## **Summary Report**

### **Tai Poutini Polytechnic**

(January 2008)



## **INTRODUCTION:**

The academic quality audit that has been undertaken at Tai Poutini Polytechnic is the second full audit carried out by the Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics Quality (ITP Quality). The first one, in 2003, resulted in the recommendation to ITP Quality that Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) be awarded quality assured status. The Mid-Term Quality Review in August 2005 recommended confirmation of this status. The audit team that visited Tai Poutini Polytechnic for this 2007 academic audit received full documentation prior to the visit, and was provided with additional documents and resources during the four-day visit. The major documents sighted, and people or groups interviewed, are listed within Appendix A.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic has three Directorates: West Coast, MAINZ (Music and Audio Institute of New Zealand), and the National and Industry Directorate. In addition to the main campus at Greymouth, there are satellite campuses on the West Coast, at Westport, Hokitika and Reefton. In Christchurch there are two campuses, at Sullivans Road (National and Industry Directorate) and at the MAINZ campus in High Street. In Wanaka, there is a ski patrol site (West Coast Directorate). There are two sites in Auckland: The MAINZ site in central Auckland and the Auckland School of Scaffolding (National and Industry Directorate) at Mt Wellington.

The National and Industry Directorate is focused on providing training to the heavy construction, automotive engineering, emergency management and civil construction and mining industries. Programmes within the West Coast Directorate are a combination of locally-approved qualifications, National Certificates and National Diplomas, ACE courses and foundation learning. Programmes delivered on the West Coast have no fees, although students pay course-related costs. The two MAINZ campuses, at Auckland and Christchurch, offer programmes in contemporary music performance, creative enterprise, and audio engineering and music production.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic thus functions both as the regional polytechnic for the West Coast, and as the national provider of key niche industry training, such as scaffolding, the “Digger School”, minerals extraction, roading, and search and rescue. The polytechnic has also taken a national lead in the provision of programmes in eco-tourism, hosting an international conference in this area during 2007, and engaging in research in this particular field.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

The audit team commended Tai Poutini Polytechnic for a number of instances of particular effectiveness in ensuring academic quality (see Section 4 below).

One instance of corrective action required was found during the audit, relating to the first ITPQ standard (Institutional Quality Management). The audit team considered that, although this non-compliance with the standard has a number of facets, there was low risk overall to student learning. The ITP accepted this finding when it was reported in the closing meeting of the audit, and will implement appropriate corrective actions, during 2008. In addition, the audit team made five recommendations for improved practice, all of which are contained within the body of this report, and summarised at its end.

The corrective action related to specific instances of low-level non-compliance with the QMS, found mostly with respect to the documentation relating to individual programmes. (See Standard One below.)

The five recommendations within the report were concerned with:

- an internal audit of the National Diploma in Business (Level 6) during 2008 (Standard One);
- the system in place for documentation of the criteria, the process, and the responsibility for each decision relating to eligibility for funding of programmes (Standard One);
- selection and entry criteria, particularly in relation to IELTS statements, and to programmes where there are more applicants than places available (Standard Five);
- complaints policy and associated procedures (Standard Six);
- documentation of appeal processes (Standard Nine).

The audit team concludes that Tai Poutini Polytechnic has met ITP New Zealand Academic Quality Standards 1-12. It is confirmed that corrective action relating to the identified low-risk non-compliance, with an appropriate time-line, has been determined.

**BOARD DECISION (4 February 2008)**

**That Tai Poutini Polytechnic be awarded Quality Assured status for a period of four years, consistent with ITP Quality requirements.**