

## **Why are we developing these new vocational pathways?**

We need to ensure that all young people have the skills and knowledge to transition from school to further education, training and work.

While the pathway for around 30 percent of 16-17 year olds who intend to enrol in degree level tertiary education is clear and well-understood, the pathways for the 70 percent of young people who seek careers that don't need a degree are not as well-defined.

We are creating five vocational pathways to help students make clear choices about subject and study options. The pathways will outline a career map for groups of similar industries and help students navigate the education system and see the relevance of the subjects they take.

Each vocational pathway will set out a coherent learning package which leads to further education, training and careers in a wide range of relevant industries and occupations.

The pathways will encourage more 16-17 year olds to remain in education and achieve NCEA Level 2 because young people will see the relevance of learning to their particular interests, skills or desired vocations.

## **When will the pathways be available?**

The pathways will be defined during 2011 and progressively available from 2012.

## **How does the pathways work fit in with the overall aims of the Youth Guarantee?**

The Youth Guarantee's aim is that all young people will, at a minimum, complete NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent tertiary qualification. The vocational pathways help to achieve this goal because they will provide young people with clear routes to careers in groups of industries. This will encourage more young people to remain in education and training and achieve NCEA Level 2.

## **How do the pathways differ from courses and programmes offered by ITOs in schools eg Tools4Work/BCATS?**

The vocational pathways will be both broad-based and coherent. This will ensure that young people will be able to enter a wide range of specific occupations and industries. It is important that the vocational pathways are broad so they don't close off options for students. For example, a young person will be able to achieve the Service Sector pathway by taking a combination of programmes in hospitality, or retail, or sport and fitness.

Programmes like Tools4Work and BCATs and many other innovative vocationally focused programmes currently offered by schools will be able to continue as part of a broader coherent framework.

## **How is this different from Gateway and STAR programmes?**

STAR and Gateway are successful programmes which enable students to access tertiary education while still at school. These initiatives and others the Government has introduced, such as trades academies, the Tertiary High School at the Manukau Institute of Technology, Tai Wananga and Service Academies, begin to broaden the options available to young people so that they stay engaged in education. The Youth Guarantee will build on these programmes by supporting students to achieve NCEA Level 2 through clear pathways.

## **What will this initiative mean for students?**

Students will have clearly defined choices about how they get to where they want to go. The vocational pathways will mark a clear route to a wide range of jobs and careers. They will show the sorts of subjects and topics students should choose, the standards they need to achieve so that they can access the sorts of jobs and occupations they aspire to.

### **What will this mean for education providers?**

Schools will be able to offer clearer choices to students. There will be a vast improvement in the clarity of choice that schools are able to offer students. When the vocational pathways are developed, schools and students will have a clear indication of what students need to do to follow any of the pathways.

### **Who is putting the pathways together?**

Leaders from both secondary and tertiary sectors are working alongside industry training and business representatives to put the pathways together. They will liaise with various government agencies such as the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

### **Will this work extend to other industries?**

The five vocational pathways cover a broad range of industries and occupations which is about 76% of the workforce. Further pathways could be developed later depending on interest and demand.

### **Who is putting this work together?**

The Ministry of Education has set up a Pathways Advisory Group made up of leaders from the secondary and tertiary education sectors, business and industry to oversee the development of each pathway. Each pathway will be developed by a consortium of ITOs and representatives of schools and tertiary providers. This will ensure that the pathways reflect the real knowledge and skill requirements of groups of industries and that they are educationally robust, credible and work within NCEA. These groups are liaising with the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

### **How do we know that the pathways will match what each job or occupation requires?**

Industry training organisations, industry and business have a strong input into creating the pathways so that they reflect the real knowledge and skill requirements of industry sectors.

The Pathways Advisory Group includes employer and employee representatives and is seeking input from professional and industry associations on the way the pathways are put together and their content.

### **Where has funding for this project come from?**

The pathways are being developed within current baselines. In successive Budgets, this Government has purchased additional Youth Guarantee places reflecting the Government's high priority to raise achievement rates of New Zealand students. There will be 7,500 Youth Guarantee and Youth Training fees free places available in tertiary education in 2012. Around 2,600 of these will be Youth Guarantee places.

### **Will the vocational pathways be available to kura?**

Yes. NCEA standards are still being developed for Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (the national curriculum for Maori medium settings). However, in the meantime schools and kura are using standards related to the New Zealand Curriculum, some of which will be included in the pathways. When the NCEA standards that have been developed for Te Marautanga o Aotearoa are available, the vocational pathways will be defined to include them.