

2.7 Whanganui District Employment Training Trust, Manawatū

Subject: Whanganui Work Ready Passport Initiative

Date prepared:	20 June 2020	Meeting date:	25 June 2020
Prepared by:	Terry Curran, Senior Regional Advisor, Te Ara Mahi	Approved by:	Thomas Perenara, Team Leader Te Ara Mahi

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memo is to:
 - a) Advise that Whanganui District Employment Training Trust (WDETT) has reapplied for **Te Ara Mahi** funding to continue the **Whanganui Work Ready Passport Initiative** in Manawatū – Whanganui for a further 1 year; and
 - b) Seek approval for the funding required to extend their current contract to continue the delivery of the programme.

Recommended action

2. We recommend that the SROs:
 - (a) **Approve** grant funding of \$^{Commercial Inform} from the Te Ara Mahi portion of the Provincial Growth Fund towards the Whanganui Work Ready Passport Initiative.
 - (b) **Cofunding: Note** that Whanganui & Partners have invested \$^{Commercial Inform} to implement the 'YES' digital platform to support their Whanganui Work Ready Passport Initiative (100% SWEET).
 - (c) **Note** this programme will support **at least** ^{C mm} **students into employment** having had **already supported** ^{C mm} until the COVID-19 interruption, but will now also focus on rangatahi they had already placed and now displaced by COVID-19, helping with their redeployment.
 - (d) **Note** the applicant applied for a one year project in 2019 and would like to extend the programme for a further year.
 - (e) **Note** that COVID-19 has impacted WDETT's ability to deliver the programme in schools and engage with employers.
 - (f) **Note** the programme supports students (year 11 – 13 and NEETs) in Whanganui region to gain a Work Ready Passport (WRP) and will include rangatahi who have been displaced by COVID-19 and assisting with their redeployment.
 - (g) **Note** this programme works with students to improve their chances of gaining employment and supports employers to identify the best candidates for the job.
 - (h) **Note** that WDETT will work collaboratively with AG Challenge who is facilitating MOE/MSD Brokers in Whanganui schools with an MOU and ensure there is no duplication.
 - (i) **Note** that grant funding of \$^{Commercial Inform} from the Te Ara Mahi portion of the Provincial Growth Fund was approved at the May 2019 SRO meeting.
 - (j) **Note** the intention to be self-sufficient after one year of funding has proven to be ambitious, with COVID-19 having now also caused disruption to this plan. Further funding will provide a better

opportunity to secure ongoing self-sufficiency for the programme.

- (k) **Note** programme will be an extension and variation of the current contract.

Key points

3.

- a) The Work Ready Passport (WRP) programme is for school students to prepare them to leave school ready for employment, in Whanganui and Rangitikei regions.
- b) WDETT is now working with rangatahi who have been displaced by COVID-19 and assisting with their redeployment
- c) This programme supports students in gaining a WRP, which enables them to prove to employers that they are 'ready for work' and therefore improve their chances of gaining employment. This programme also works with employers to identify the best candidates for jobs.
- d) WRP is an important part of the 100% SWEET initiative that is also delivered by the Recipient. 100% SWEET stands for 100% of Students in Whanganui being in Education, Employment or Training, a solution for connecting school leavers with tertiary and employment opportunities.
- e) Funding will enable the ^{Comm} full time staff to continue to deliver the WRP programme in schools in Whanganui, and with agencies working with young people no longer in school.
 - ^{Comm} x FTE focusses on delivering the WRP, acting as the liaison between schools and industry to provide multiple opportunities for students to gain work experience; and.
 - ^{Comm} x FTE supporting the delivery of the WRP (^{Comm} % of time) and supports the 100% SWEET tasks that support the WRP: such as CV building, coordinating education, employment and training events.
- f) This programme will work with school leavers and those not currently in education, employment or training. This programme provides assurance to employers that rangatahi are ready for employment, which provides a tool to support rangatahi into employment opportunities. This programme provides a focus on a target group that is likely to be particularly impacted by COVID-19 with difficulties in gaining employment.
- g) The WRP programme had made good progress up until the COVID-19 disruption and had over 80 employers signed up and 44 employment placements. The expected outcomes of the extension programme are outlined below:

Expected Outcomes	
Student Engagement	400-500 students will commence the WRP process
Employer Engagement	^{Comm} businesses signed up to the scheme
Employment	^{Comm} students into employment

COVID-19 impact

- h) COVID-19 has hindered their ability to deliver the WRP programme with disruptions to regional secondary schools and Whanganui & Rangitikei employers. Their focus during this time has been on placements they had made prior to COVIDS 19, to retain their employment or redeployed.
- i) Employers from Whanganui Industries were intending to assist fund this programme beyond PGF funding,

however this is highly unlikely given current circumstances, with a further year of funding requested to help continue deliver until the situation improves.

Consultation

4. Consultation with MSD Taranaki Region which covers both Whanganui and Rangitikei areas was supportive of extending this programme another year. They stated that it works alongside their internal youth team that is focussed on ensuring young people are in training or at School. It is not seen as a duplication of service as it's a preventive measure while in school and stops young people needing MSD services.

Appendices

Appendix One: May 2019 SRO minutes. **Document proactively released**