

I would like to provide input to Te Ara Paerangi

I feel qualified to provide input based on my professional experience

Originally hailing from Germany, I completed university education in Germany and the USA, graduating with a PhD in Biology. I received postdoctoral fellowships in The USAmerica, Japan and Aotearoa New Zealand. I held a tenured Professor position in Microbial Biotechnology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology until 2021. I started a company in Otepoti Dunedin with a focus on open innovation. I have professional experience with the intellectual property system.

Abolish the unhealthy focus on patents and IP

Presently, the innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand is set out by organization and procedures that is copied from Silicon Valley. This is not innovative, but follows the proven and therefore obsolete innovation model that demands patents. There is a focus on acquiring IP protections through patents, which has undesirable consequences. To establish IP, start-ups need international capital, which dilutes local ownership. Consequently, multinational companies benefit from government investment. In my experience patents are of dubious use for innovation, but are the currency by which innovation is currently assessed by MBIE and Callaghan Innovation.

Keep companies and innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand

We invests in innovation, but the funded companies often aim to attract international investment, with the goal of being sold to companies overseas. Companies that receive innovation funding should be required to stay in Aotearoa New Zealand as a condition for receiving innovation funding.

Give innovators and start-ups a stable base income

We have a wealth of innovation potential that cannot be realized, because people who work on their business ideas cannot afford it. This is because unemployment benefit cannot be used to start businesses. Establishing a Basic Income or a similar scheme would be mechanism to boost innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand, as it would enable people to work on innovation. This is especially true for young people such as students.

I am happy to be contacted for additional information and clarification

Contact information:

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