

From: [Peter Winder](#)
To: [Penny Simmonds](#)
Subject: Accepted: Peter and Murray - (TP) - Meeting with Minister Simmonds

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Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
Parliament
By email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Minister

After our recent discussion in your office I resign as the Chairman of the Te Pūkenga Council. It is effective immediately. My role is untenable given your intent to undertake a return to 17 separate entities, even as a transition step to an as yet unknown, future state. In addition, I am not able to operate outside of the limits of my statutory functions or breach my obligation to work towards the financial sustainability of the organisation.

I have been fortunate to have been in a variety of positions over the last 18 years to offer views to nine Ministers from three governments over a range of portfolios. Without exception those long-term working relationships have been enriching

Those commissions resulted in my commitment, while I have been leading Te Pūkenga, to hold very tightly to the expectations upon me to work in the best interests for our 270,000 learners, 10,000 staff and some 35,000 employers who train and care for our on-job trainees.

The silent majority of staff are those whose efforts, work, commitment and support of Te Pūkenga go unrecognised by many. They will be deeply impacted by this change in direction. The strides made in turning around the enrolment profile are also positive and it would be unfortunate if learners and their families saw recent changes as a reason to withdraw from study and further vocational education.

I remain available to speak with you should you wish.

Kind regards

Murray W. Strong

CC: Jenn Bestwick, Chair Tertiary Education Commission
Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education
Tim Fowler, Chief Executive Tertiary Education Commission