8 SEP 2016

John Fraser – Dean, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland.

Peter Crampton – Pro-Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences and Dean, University of Otago Medical School, University of Otago

Dear Professors

Thank you for writing to me regarding the University of Waikato’s (Waikato) proposal to establish a third medical school in New Zealand.

As you have raised, the establishment of a third medical school would have implications for the medical training pipeline and medical workforce in New Zealand. As such, if Waikato seeks government funding for such an initiative, it will be expected to submit a fully researched business case, to be assessed by government. I would also expect it to consider how it can work with the Universities of Auckland and Otago to ensure the needs of students are met.

Waikato would need to be able to provide clinical placements for any students it enrols, and would therefore need to consult with placement providers, Health Workforce New Zealand and the Ministry of Health. Waikato will also be expected to consult with the Tertiary Education Commission if it intends to seek Student Achievement Component funding for domestic students.

I acknowledge the Universities of Auckland and Otago for proactively addressing issues with current provision (the lack of Māori and Pasifika medical graduates, the lack of rurally-based graduates and the lack of community-based teaching opportunities) and implementing initiatives to address these issues. I am particularly pleased to see that the Māori enrolments have reached demographic equity and that there has been similar success with Pasifika students.

Thank you for writing to me. I trust this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Joyce
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment