

## CONTEXT FOR THE NATIONAL DATA: NEW ZEALAND

Prior to 1989 the only institutions in New Zealand that were allowed to provide degree and post-graduate degree programs were the six public universities (Auckland, Canterbury, Massey, Otago, Victoria and Waikato). At that time the public polytechnics delivered vocational diplomas and certificates and the colleges of education teacher training diplomas. Private providers were not permitted to deliver degree or diploma level programs. This changed with the *Education Act 1989*. The intent of the Act was to promote expansion of higher education by allowing the polytechnics and colleges of education to deliver degrees courses. Another aspect of the reform was that private education providers (both for-profit and non-profit) were allowed to deliver diploma and degree level courses. This they could do after the New Zealand Qualifications Authority accredited their qualifications.

Today there are in New Zealand eight universities, all of which are publicly owned. These include the original six plus Lincoln University, which converted from an agricultural college in 1990, and Auckland University of Technology, which converted from a polytechnic in 2000. There are no private universities in New Zealand and the term “university” is reserved for use by the public universities. The universities concentrate on the delivery of three and four year degrees and post-graduate level studies.

Also in the public sector are 20 polytechnics, four colleges of education and three Wananga; the later being public tertiary education institutions that provide programs with an emphasis on Maori tradition and custom. These institutions deliver a range of programs from certificate level programs to post graduate level studies depending upon the institution, its size, location and student demand.

The private sector has a much larger number of institutions (over 200) of smaller size, which deliver certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate degree level programs. The entire tertiary sector is administered and funded by a single Ministry and funding body (the Tertiary Education Commission) and so there is no formal division between higher education and other

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tertiary education programs. Indeed many of the Diploma programs are simply the equivalent of the first and first two years of degree programs. In this data, therefore, diploma level programs have been included in the category of higher education. The private providers concentrate more on non-higher degree level programs than higher education and within higher education more on diploma rather than degree level studies. As well as private institutions there are a number of Industry Training Organizations that are responsible for setting standards and arranging the delivery of industry training for the sector it represents.

All institutions that deliver higher education programs in New Zealand, private and public, charge tuition fees, and both are the recipients of government subsidies although these have been frozen to the private providers since 2001. Public universities carry out most research and all doctoral training; polytechnics and a small number of private providers are making attempts to move into this field.