External evaluation and review: Pasifika PTEs

In September 2011, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) analysed 291 external evaluation and review (EER) reports of private training establishments (PTEs). As part of this, NZQA analysed the EER reports of PTEs that identified as Pasifika or made a unique contribution to a Pasifika community or learner cohort. Thirty-nine Pasifika PTEs were identified, and 18 of these PTEs had participated in an EER (46 per cent) as at 30 November 2011.

**Key characteristics of high-performing Pasifika PTEs**

- Pasifika PTEs create a values-based and contextualised learning environment that is supportive and inclusive of Pasifika values. Expectations for academic achievement are high, but all achievements are rewarded and shared widely.
- Pasifika PTEs ensure ongoing engagement with parents and the wider community occurs and feedback is incorporated as appropriate.
- Pasifika PTEs foster an effective teaching environment, which promotes collegial relationships between tutors and learners, and allows for individualised support and encouragement.
- Pasifika PTEs have strong relationships with other key external stakeholders such as other tertiary institutions and businesses in their specific industry.
The key area for improvement for most Pasifika PTEs is their self-assessment capability. On average Pasifika PTEs are scoring significantly less ‘Excellent’ ratings for self-assessment capability compared to ratings for educational performance.

**Areas for Improvement and Future Focus**

The challenge many Pasifika PTEs will face in the future is maintaining and sustaining high-levels of performance in EER. For many Pasifika PTEs, the focus will continue to be placed on building organisational capability in self-assessment, to ensure self-assessment practice is ongoing and systematised.