

# Funds available for industry training

Colin Williscroft - Fri, 16 Sep 2022

A new group has money available to encourage education and training of people in industries including mining and quarrying.

The Inspiring Futures Foundation can provide financial support for people working in, or studying to work in, industries that the foundation has partnerships with. Money can also be advanced for vocational training and education needs in those industries, which include mining and quarrying.

Research that will help people enter or engage with those industries may also be eligible, the foundation says in its grant making policy.

The foundation's industry partners include Straterra, the Institute of Quarrying NZ, the Aggregate and Quarry Association, MinEx and the AusIMM NZ branch.

IOQNZ board member Brian Bouzaid is the organisation's industry council chairman.

## Criteria

The foundation is calling for funding applications from registered charities, incorporated societies, other organisations with donee status, community groups and individuals.

Consideration may be given to other organisations, including not-for-profits.

Funding requests could be for requirements including capability building costs, programme costs, delivery costs, capital expenditure, fundraising costs, and travel and accommodation.

The foundation has deliberately kept the grant-making criteria for its inaugural funding round as open as possible so that industries can work out what their needs are, trustee convenor Sturrock Saunders says.

At the ending of the first funding round, which closes for applications on 31 October, the policy may be reviewed, he says.

## Capital fund

Saunders says the foundation was a result of the Motor Industry Training organisation coming under the umbrella of Te Pūkenga, the vocational training provider that was formed in 2020 through the merger of 16 institutes of technology and polytechnics.

He says there was an argument that MITO's retained earnings from before the merger could be deemed an employer contribution, so negotiations were held with the Tertiary Education Commission for that money to go to the foundation.

"It took quite some negotiating, but we got it across the line," Saunders says.

"That has meant that there's a large capital fund."

The foundation's trustees are yet to decide whether to distribute the money relatively quickly, or whether a perpetual fund is a better option.

"Although we're weighted to the latter, not the former."

In the meantime, it wanted to get its first round of grants under way.

"There's probably no greater time when the industry has needed support around the learning environment, and the transitions going on in the learning environment, and the skill shortages and the necessity to ensure that our people are getting the right training."

## Broad criteria

In that uncertain environment, the foundation wanted to be flexible in the first grant round for participating industries and learners.

"We're not sure if we're going to get five applications or 50.

"We want industry to tell us what their needs are."

More details about the grants, including the grant making policy, an application form and how to apply, are on the foundation's [website](#).

The next round of grant applications is due to open in March.

