

Accelerating our nation.... Accelerating Aotearoa at work

Accelerating Aotearoa is an ***established and independent Not for Profit*** providing:

- ***Focus on digital capability*** as the platform to the recovery of New Zealand's economy,
- ***Skills in establishing collaboration*** across regions along with both public & private sector organisations,
- ***Ability to demonstrate measurable successes*** over a 5 year period.

Our independent, collaborative and broad based approach to delivering outcomes for sectors and communities is unique; a range of initiatives within a framework to co-ordinate the energies of Tertiaries, businesses, government and communities to directly enhance outcomes for the underserved.

Accelerating Aotearoa's projects focus on:

- ***Attracting youth to tertiary courses*** with digital content
- ***Providing youth with opportunities to make informed choices*** in tertiary education & ensuring their study is relevant to future labour market needs
- ***Connecting youth to the job*** market and supporting them on the pathway between tertiary study and work

Accelerating Aotearoa has focused a number of its pilot projects on underserved communities. For the youth of underserved communities this means:

- ***Increased exposure to the opportunities of Digital Careers*** that might otherwise not have been apparent.
- ***An enhanced value proposition for entry into tertiary education*** – from the perspective of achievement and completion
- ***Improved access to highly paid careers*** and consequential improved economic outcomes

Current projects include

1. [ITRAC](#) – the essential link between what business needs and what students study; a web based talent tracking system, delivering workers' skills and competency profile information, to business.
2. [ICT Skills Action Plan](#) – The development of a collaborative cross-sector working group comprising the ICT Industry, Central and Local Government, Tertiaries and Tangata Whenua to pilot a fresh and collaborative approach to IT Skills policy development in New Zealand.
3. [Digital Careers Expo](#) – A series of events connecting students with support services and employers to help them make study and career choices aligned with NZ's future skills needs and become "work ready" for the New Zealand labour market.
4. [Digital Careers Website](#) – The definitive web based presence for the promotion of digital careers and the appropriate education pathways, to future digital professionals.

5. [Growing Workready Graduates](#) –a nationwide initiative to enable all Tertiaries’ graduates to benefit from an Internship experience. As an initial step a research programmes is reviewing current cooperative education models to identify gaps in transitioning graduates from academia to business, analyse the impact on graduates & employers and develop a future nationwide framework.

What’s unique about Accelerating Aotearoa?

Accelerating Aotearoa offers opportunities for participation in:

1. **A multi-stakeholder collaboration** alongside key public and private sector organisations and their leaders
 - Demonstrating *integrity based commitment to nation building*
 - Creating *opportunities for community building outside the construct of commercial engagement*
2. **A proven & long term programme** of digital capability projects
 - Supporting an *independent and broader view* of the range of digital capability programmes in currently in progress
 - *Enabling the alignment of an organisation’s own programmes* with the broader agenda of NZ Inc – both nation-wide and regionally
 - Providing opportunities for *investment of resources without the risk of duplication*

High points of Accelerating Aotearoa’s work to date include:

- Participation of **350 international undergraduates in the “Digital Careers Expos”**, a series of events connecting students with support services and employers to support study and career choices aligned with New Zealand’s future skills needs and become “work ready” for our labour market. In 2009 the Expos were delivered in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in partnership with DoL Immigration. The Expos were delivered with the support of Auckland City Council, Grow Wellington, Canterbury Development Corporation, Careers Services and NZICT Group.
- Registration of more than **1000 internationals in “Auckland Hiring”**, events where both skilled migrants and recent graduates are “speed interviewed” by New Zealand IT employers. The programme is delivered in partnership with the DoL Immigration and has achieved close to 20% job placement over the 3 years it has operated.
- Participation of **235 senior Auckland secondary students in “Go IT”**, an encounter style workshop where secondary students are mentored by young digital professionals offering a glimpse of work and life in a digital career. The programme is delivered in partnership with Women in Technology and hosted by Microsoft and Vodafone. 6 schools, approaching 300 students and a total of 191 mentors have taken part in the programme over a two year period.
- Production and distribution of **10,000 DVDs advocating digital careers** and detailing tertiary pathways to secondary and Tertiary students throughout New Zealand. Work is currently underway with 6 tertiary partners (University of Auckland, University of Otago, New Zealand

School of Education, NatColl, Manukau Institute of Technology and the Open Polytechnic) to update this initiative as a Digital Careers Website.

- **Establishment of iTRAC©**, a web based talent tracking system, delivering workers' skills and competency profile information, to business. iTRAC© provides a comprehensive view of the full "talent pipeline", along with a framework for aggregation and analysis. The project is being piloted at Manukau led by a Project Steering Group comprising Manukau City Council (Economic Development and Tangata Whenua Relationships), Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Career Services, Manukau Institute of Technology and Enterprising Manukau.
- **Expansion of the University of Auckland's CSI Academy** internship programme to a programme supporting students from 7 Tertiaries across New Zealand.
- **Establishment of a nation-wide collaboration programme** to identify and share best practice and innovation across regions for the development of digital capability in priority sectors. The "NISC" (National ICT Skills Collaboration), connects local and central government representatives with NGO partners and industry to establish a national framework for the delivery of collaborative projects.

Our Background

Accelerating Aotearoa was **incorporated as Accelerating Auckland in May 2007, and gained Charities Commission registration in December 2008**. Primary stakeholders include Central and Local Government, Communities, Education and Training providers, Economic Development Agencies and the Private Sector along with relevant industry organisations.

We have demonstrated our ability to achieve highly effective deliverables across a range of activities over a 5 year period. Accelerating Auckland is committed to the long term leadership of collaboration based digital capability programmes for New Zealand.

Project Funding

Accelerating Aotearoa and historically Accelerating Auckland was established with **catalyst funding from the Tertiary Education Commission**. Subsequent funding sources have included both central and local government, Tertiaries and business.

Accelerating our nation....Accelerating Aotearoa Apoopoo

The digital world is driving innovation throughout government and society; our future is dependant in many ways on how confidently we as a country can deal with the challenges, and grasp the opportunities of that digital world. Those individuals equipped for jobs in the digital world are already demonstrated to be amongst our highest wage earners.

Ensuring "digital careers" are promoted to young New Zealanders and accessible, and that skills development is aligned to the needs of industry and our economy, will take a coordinated approach.

Accelerating Aotearoa is **committed to the long term leadership of collaboration based digital capability programmes** for New Zealand. We have demonstrated our ability to achieve highly effective deliverables across a range of activities along with remaining sustainable over a 5 year period.