



## Fees Free Initiative – Extension

### Overview

The “fees free” initiative introduced in Phase II of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) will be extended under ERP Phase III for qualifying courses delivered by the Cook Islands Training and Tertiary Institute (CITTI) and the University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Centre (USPCK). The extended fees free initiative will apply from January to July 2021 for existing students continuing with certificate and diploma courses undertaken in Semester 2 2020.

### Estimated total cost

The estimated total cost of the Fees Free Extension is \$0.3 million from January to July 2021.

### Background

#### Objective

The objective of this measure is to support upskilling of the workforce in order to improve productivity in preparation for economic recovery in the coming months. Training employees can be expensive for businesses, and difficult to access for individuals wishing to undertake further study to improve their job skills. Recognising this, Phase II of the ERP subsidised the costs of eligible certificate and diploma courses at local tertiary institutions to support training accessibility for the local workforce.

CITTI and USPCK experienced a record number of enrolments in fees free courses in Phase II, and received positive feedback from students, including those in the Pa Enua. Because of the success of the initiative, the ERP Phase III will provide support for continuing certificate and diploma qualifications undertaken in Phase II for those actively still enrolled and studying towards the completion of their respective qualifications.

#### About the Fees Free Extension

Fees free courses that are eligible for extended support include only continuing certificate and diploma programs at CITTI and USPCK. That is – the additional courses that are needed for obtaining either a certificate or a diploma qualification that a student had enrolled in during Phase II. The extension is valid for Semester 1 courses delivered between January and July 2021.



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## How and when to register

### CITTI

Please contact the CITTI office for queries regarding continuing courses, ph. 21471.

### USPCK

Students continuing with USPCK in Semester 1 must complete their course registration by 25 February 2021. Students continuing with USPCK in Flexi School will be contacted by the office once registration is open.

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## For further information contact

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