



media release

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ITPs and wānanga offered free KAREN membership for 2008

REANNZ, Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand Ltd, is accelerating the reach of KAREN, the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network, by offering free network membership to institutes of technology, polytechnics (ITPs) and wānanga for the 2008 calendar year.

The KAREN Experience Programme will expose ITPs and wānanga to the transformational benefits of KAREN, allowing them to develop new approaches to teaching and learning through supporting access to online collaborative tools, rich media content and data repositories. ITPs and wānanga can also take advantage of KAREN to streamline their IT operations through managed internet access, data storage, voice over IP, and access to shared services.

"This programme will allow the ITP and wānanga sectors to realise the important role KAREN has in helping them achieve their plans in a rapidly evolving tertiary education system," says Donald Clark, Chief Executive, REANNZ.

In exchange for free membership, ITPs and wānanga will be asked to make an 'in-kind' investment of equal value through committing to a series of projects during the year that would not have been possible without KAREN. This will help ensure that ITPs and wānanga realise the greatest benefit from their connection.

The TEC welcomes this offer to the ITPs and wānanga, with David Nicholson, Director Tertiary Network commenting "We are particularly interested in how KAREN might be used innovatively by ITPs and wānanga in working collaboratively to meet learner needs in their regions and its potential to support shared service opportunities."

"KAREN is rapidly becoming essential infrastructure for New Zealand's research, education and innovation community. ITPs and wānanga are an important part of this landscape, and the natural next level of networked community now that the universities, Crown Research Institutes and National Library are connected," says Donald.

Connections can be made directly to a KAREN Point of Presence (PoP) or to a KAREN PoP via an Accredited Network Aggregator.

More information

See the FAQs below for more information. Interested parties can contact Vicki Lindsay, Communities Assistant on +64 4 913 1098 or vicki.lindsay@reannz.co.nz. For media enquiries contact Donald Clark on +64 4 913 1090.

About KAREN

KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network) is a high capacity, ultra high-speed network for New Zealand's research, education and innovation sectors. KAREN provides connectivity between New Zealand's tertiary institutions, research organisations, libraries, schools and museums, and the rest of the world.

Frequently asked questions

Why is this programme available?

This programme will accelerate the reach of KAREN, making membership more valuable for existing and new participants. ITPs and wānanga have an increasing reason to be networked both within the sector and externally. This is informed by the Tertiary Education Strategy. REANNZ wants to support the government and the sector by lowering the barrier for ITPs and wānanga to experience the transformational benefits of KAREN.

What are the benefits of this programme?

First and foremost, this programme means you can connect to KAREN without paying any membership fees during the 2008 calendar year. Being connected to KAREN brings a huge number of educational and technical benefits.

KAREN allows you to prepare students for the innovative networked workplace of the future. The possibilities include:

- expanded course delivery via video conferencing
- distance education courses
- multi-media services
- video streaming
- remote collaborative teaching and learning lessons and scenarios
- improved access to local /overseas partners
- access to digital resources from universities/crown research institutes

- access to local, national, and international advanced networks and their digital content
- increased integration with the local business community through tech parks, incubators, R&D investors vertically with feeder schools and other TEI partners

You can also take advantage of KAREN to streamline your IT operations through:

- managed internet access
- data storage
- voice over IP
- multi-media services, direct connection to key resource providers, and powerful servers for high spec applications

What do I have to do to participate in this programme?

To help you realise the greatest value from your KAREN connection, you will be asked to commit to projects with an equivalent value of in-kind contribution during the year. These projects must deliver outcomes that would not have been possible without KAREN.

Contact REANNZ for further information and guidance on developing your projects.

How long does the programme run for?

This programme runs for the 2008 calendar year only, so the sooner you get connected the better deal you get.

What will happen to my connection at the end of 2008?

REANNZ is confident you will see significant value from KAREN membership and will continue your KAREN connection as a full contributing member in 2009 and beyond.

Should you not wish to be KAREN member beyond the programme period simply notify REANNZ and we will discontinue your connection.

We are keen to take up this offer. What do we do now?

Contact Vicki Lindsay, Communities Assistant at REANNZ on +64 4 913 1098 or vicki.lindsay@reannz.co.nz to let us know you're interested. We can also talk you through the connection options, and give you a steer on pulling together your KAREN projects.

Can schools, libraries and other research and education organisations connect to KAREN?

Yes, schools, libraries and other research and education organisations can connect to KAREN, and some in the process of doing so right now.

Membership eligibility is detailed in KAREN's [Network Access Policy](#).

Is this programme available to schools, libraries and other research and education organisations?

This programme is currently available to ITPs and wānanga only. ITPs and wānanga form the natural next level of community for KAREN to engage now that the universities, CRIs and the National Library are connected.

ITPs and wānanga have a wider regional presence than current members, and this programme should stimulate greater local connectivity options especially in locations more distant from current PoPs, helping other potential members.

How can I connect to KAREN?

There are two options available to connect to KAREN:

- 1) Directly to a KAREN Pop
- 2) To a KAREN PoP via an Accredited Aggregator

What is an Accredited Network Aggregator?

An Accredited Network Aggregator is an organisation that has been accredited by REANNZ for the purpose of providing KAREN connectivity services to members. There are currently three Accredited Aggregators – TelstraClear, FX Networks and SNAP (Christchurch and Lincoln only).

Aggregators enable multiple smaller organisations to gain access to KAREN where they do not have the requisite technical capabilities internally for a core KAREN connection.

Which Aggregator should I use?

The choice of Aggregator is up to you. Not all Aggregators operate in all areas. Please contact the Aggregators directly to check availability in your area. For contact details, see our list of [KAREN access providers](#).

What if my current service partner is not an Accredited Aggregator?

Other service providers may become Accredited Aggregators by approaching REANNZ.

What speed can I expect from my KAREN connection?

A connection to the core network can be made at 10Gbps or 1Gbps. Aggregators provide connection speeds from 10Mbps (minimum) to 1Gbps.

All connections offer symmetric, uncontested, low latency bandwidth.

What equipment or installation costs can I expect?

This will depend on the type of connection you choose to make and your existing infrastructure.

Contact your Aggregator or last mile service provider for advice on their costs.

The [technical centre](#) section of our website has detailed technical information on connecting to KAREN. And our operations team can facilitate your connectivity planning.

