

## Early Learning Regulatory Review Advisory Group Terms of Reference

### Early Learning Regulatory Review

The Ministry of Education is undertaking a comprehensive review of the early learning regulatory system (the Review). The Review's purpose is to ensure current and future effectiveness of the regulatory system in supporting high quality educational outcomes, and to enable the Ministry's role as regulators and stewards of the system.

The Review is being undertaken in three tranches to ensure high priority issues are prioritised first. Less pressing issues, or issues that require further policy work and sector engagement, will be addressed in later tranches. Broadly the tranches are as follows:

1. Tranche one addressed a number of known issues within the current regulatory system that presented limitations to ensuring regulatory standards were met or were cumbersome to implement. These issues posed a degree of risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of children. This tranche is complete.
2. Tranche two covers the commitments set out in the Early Learning Action Plan and the home-based review. Tranche 2 is now effectively complete.
3. Tranche three covers the remaining matters that require significant further work to develop such as ensuring that children are at the centre of our system, and how the regulatory system can support the Crown's responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Review forms part of a broader ECE regulatory work programme.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Early Learning Regulatory Review Advisory Group (the Group) is to contribute expertise and knowledge from across the early learning sector on the Review and the broader ECE regulatory work programme.

This will include:

- providing advice on issues and opportunities within the early learning regulatory system
- providing feedback and advice on policy and regulatory options
- identifying potential risks, issues, or alternatives for implementation
- supporting wider engagement with the sector.

### Principles for Operation

The Group will have access to analysis, data and research, as appropriate, on the specific topics under discussion. This will include material that is still at a conceptual stage of development.



The responsibilities of the Group members are that they:

- act in an advisory role to the Ministry - the group will not be in a decision-making role or be asked to produce a separate report
- attend all scheduled meetings when possible (it is not necessary for members to send delegates in their place when absent)
- undertake pre-meeting reading, if provided; engage with the discussion at each meeting; and complete any post-meeting actions
- maintain the confidentiality of all information provided and all discussions during meetings.

## Membership

Name	Organisation
Sarah Alexander	Office of Early Childhood Education
Anna Steel	Playcentre Aotearoa New Zealand
Catherine Bell	Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand
Jill Bond	New Zealand Kindergartens Inc
Allanah Clark	NZEI Te Riu Roa
Christine Hall	Central Kids Early Learning
Fiona Hughes	BestStart Educare
Simon Laube	Early Childhood Council
Heke Huata	Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust
Leanne Mortlock	Provincial Education
Raewyn Overton-Stuart	Paua Early Childhood Home Based Care Service
Karen Reynolds	Barnardos New Zealand
Barry Sadlier	Evolve Education Group
Cathy Wilson	Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand
Pauline Winter	Auckland Kindergarten Association
Tarsh Koia	Ngā Puna Reo o Aotearoa

Note that if any member wishes to withdraw their membership, they may be asked to nominate a replacement representative.

## Disclosure

The Ministry of Education will maintain oversight of the Group and is responsible for keeping the Minister of Education informed of any relevant outcomes, risks and issues.

Members are not to disclose any of the information they receive due to their role as a member unless the Ministry specifically indicates that they can disclose certain information. The Ministry will advise members of the information that they can disclose on a meeting-by-meeting and/or document-by-document basis.

The Terms of Reference and Group membership will be published on the Ministry website.



## Meetings

The Group commenced in August 2020 and provides ongoing input.

Meetings of the Group will be held online every six – eight weeks, with some ad hoc meetings if required.

Any physical meetings will be held at a suitable venue, most likely in Wellington. The Ministry will cover all costs directly associated with hosting the meetings, including transport, catering and any other actual and reasonable expenses associated with members' attendance. This does not include professional fees.

The Ministry will provide an agenda in advance of the meeting.

The meetings will be chaired by the Senior Policy Manager, ECE System and Regulatory Policy.

The Ministry will formally record the minutes of the meetings and distribute to Group members. These will also be published on the Ministry's website.