

## Briefing Note: Summits update

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins Minister of Education		
Date:	16 February 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1107374
Drafter:	Richard Able		
Key contact and number:	Emily Fabling	Round robin:	No
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes		

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## Summary

- This note provides:
  - A Summits design and planning update
  - Communications objectives for your consideration as you plan your announcement for the Summits
  - The long list of potential names for the Touchstone Group.

  
Emily Fabling  
Deputy Secretary  
Strategy Planning and Governance

16/02/2018

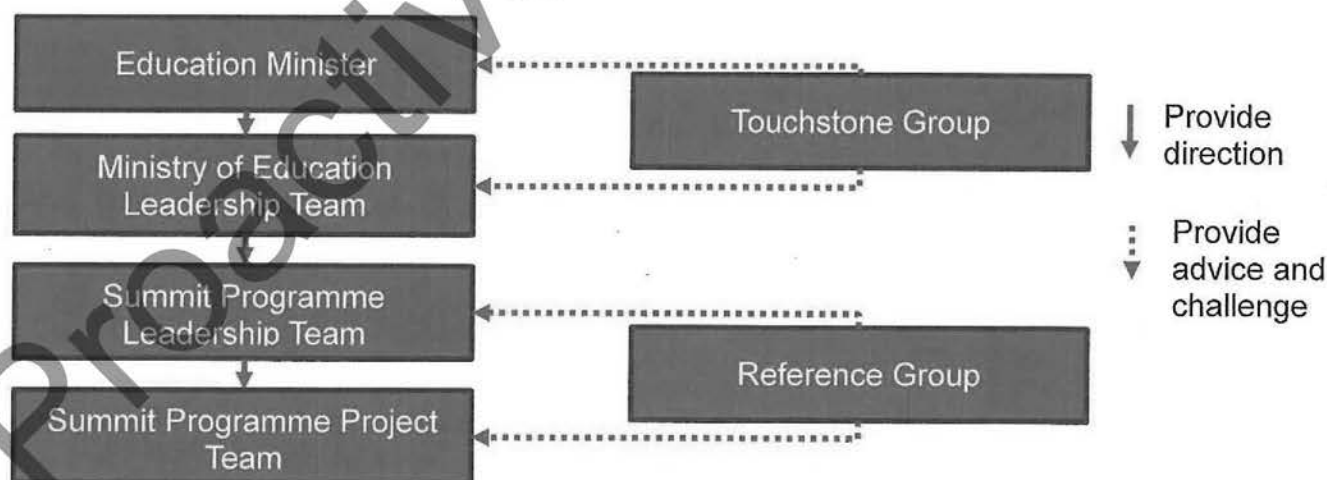
  
Andrea Schöllmann  
Deputy Secretary  
Education System Policy

16/2/18

## Summit design and planning update

1. We have provisionally booked venues in Christchurch (3-4 May) and Auckland (10-11 May). Venue availability in Auckland for these dates is very limited and may constrain how we design and deliver the event. A potential option is to move to the weekend (12-13 May). We will discuss this with you at our agency meeting on Monday 19 February.
2. We are developing options for the design and orchestration of the events. To deliver a genuinely collaborative, memorable 'historic' event that generates rich conversations requires deep expertise in this area. We do not want to risk this being viewed as 'ticking the consultation box'. We want to be able to use a variety of session approaches to genuinely engage all participants.
3. With the two points above in mind, we think that a participant target at the lower end of the range discussed to date may be most appropriate (i.e. closer to 500 rather than 800 participants as the target).
4. In support of this, our clear intention is to design the event and its inputs with stakeholders across the education system. It is critical that the conversations resonate with, and are driven by, participants rather than being solely Ministry-led. We will put in place a Reference Group for this purpose, consisting of representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups (including the teaching profession and the education sector, young people, parents, whānau, and employers iwi and Pāšifikā organisations) to help design inputs to the Summit.
5. This reference group will be more summit planning and task-focused. In contrast, your Touchstone Group will operate at a higher level, be smaller, and have an ongoing role post the summits (see figure 1 below). Paragraphs 8 - 10 and Annex two of this note provide an update on the Touchstone Group.

**Figure 1: External groups and the proposed summits programme structure**



6. We have commenced design of the public survey that will also provide valuable input to Summit conversations. We will work with the Reference Group members to further develop this.

## Stakeholder engagement and communication objectives

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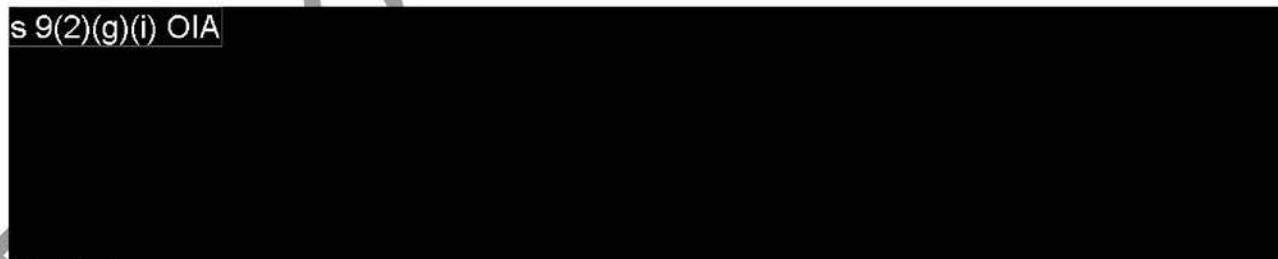
7. We have developed an initial communications and stakeholder engagement plan which we will further develop with your office. Draft messaging for the announcement of the Summits is attached as Annex one. We will also work with your office on the media release and back pocket Q and A. The draft communication objectives are:
- To promote the widest possible discussion, engagement and consultation on education throughout 2018
  - To secure wide representative engagement throughout New Zealand into the guiding questions about the future of education. This will be achieved through:
    - an online survey, preceding the Summit, which will be promoted to maximise participation
    - two large-scale Summit events, one in Christchurch and one in Auckland with 500-800 people attending each event, including clusters representing all stakeholder groups
    - organic regional and community-led meetings, hui and fono
    - engagement with children and young people in schools and kura
    - engagement through social media channels.
  - To co-ordinate engagement on each part of the education reform programme to ensure each workstream inputs into the Summit and is, in turn, informed by the Summit deliberations.

## Potential names for your touchstone group – long list

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8. The Touchstone Group of 8-10 people will serve to support the coherence of the national conversation and ensure that the values, vision and principles arising from them are honoured throughout your strategic reform programme.
9. We have provided a long list of potential people for this role (attached as Annex two) for discussion with you. We have indicated the perspective and background that each could bring. We anticipate that you will be seeking a mix of broad education expertise, perspective from within and outside the education sector and people from the front line of education.

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## Next steps

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11. Immediately following your announcement of the Summit next week, we will:
- Work with stakeholder groups to identify Reference Group members.
  - Work with Reference Group members to develop key questions and hypotheses to seed initial Summit conversations.
  - Develop and test the public survey. We envisage this as asking simple, broad questions, giving individuals the freedom to feedback on what matters to them most. We will work with your office to develop the marketing and branding to support this.

## Annexes

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Annex 1: Draft summit messaging

Annex 2: Potential names for the Touchstone Group – long list

Proactively Released

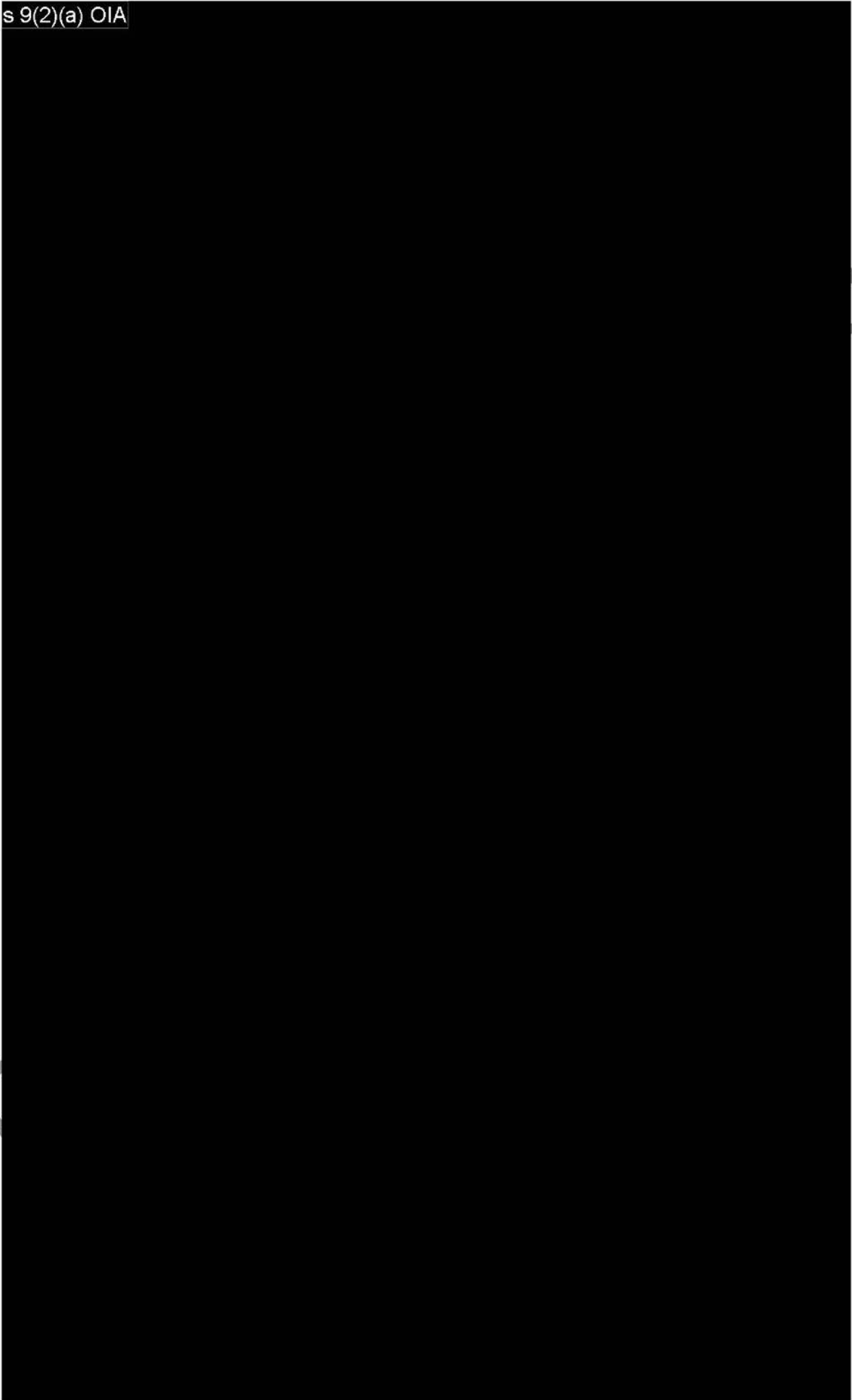
## Annex one: Draft summit messaging

- My immediate priority in 2018 is to focus the programme of education reform on refining, articulating and getting shared ownership of a vision for the education system, reviewing key aspects of, and refreshing the strategies for, the education portfolio.
- A whole-of-portfolio Education Summit process will be the key vehicle to refine and enable shared ownership of this vision and will inform the development of strategies in support.
- The goal of the Summit is to identify future challenges and map out a shared vision that all those involved with the education system can support and champion.
- I want to know what you think success in education looks like for you and your family, whānau and fono, and what you think the attributes of a successful education system are.
- The Summit and the consultation process built around it is designed to help you tell your story and to help you share your vision with others.
- We are seeking your views because, while we can be proud of many aspects of our current system, too many parts of it aren't fit for the 21st century.
- Your input will help me as Minister and the Government to shape a long-term vision for the education system of the future.
- The collective input of teachers, parents, educators, children, young people, adult learners, employers and all those with an interest in education will influence the work we are doing across all aspects of the education portfolio.
- I intend to seek input on the design of the Summit from the teaching profession and the education sector through the Youth Advisory Group, from iwi and Pasifika organisations and to have them represented on the Touchstone Group.
- The Touchstone Group will ensure the integrity of the consultative approach, to track the Summit and subsequent conversations and ensure that the policies the Government develops take account of the insights provided by participants.
- I need to hear from Māori and Pasifika, for whom the education system has largely failed to deliver to date. The Summit provides an opportunity to continue to build relationships with Māori in education, to discuss how our system needs to be more equitable for Māori children and young people, and the role of the system in protecting Te reo Māori and fostering identity, language and culture.
- I need to hear from those with special needs and the disabled, those who face extra hurdles when engaging with the system.
- I want the Summit to kick off a broad strategic conversation about the value of education and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The Summit is just the start of on-going discussion, engagement and consultation on education throughout 2018.
- The Summit will be the keystone of a national strategic conversation that enables children, young people and adult learners, parents, whānau, communities and iwi,

teachers and education leaders at all levels, disability organisations and employers and industry to participate.

- I want international perspectives and input from disruptive thinkers and provocateurs on the education system.
- I am seeking broad and deep participation in the Summit and subsequent engagement to refine and enable shared ownership of the Government's vision, inform the Government's education reform programme and inspire action and leadership by communities, parents, whānau, students and young people, employers, iwi, educators and Government.
- Ministry officials will work with stakeholder groups and through its own community networks to help these groups identify participants in the Summit. We're taking this approach to ensure a genuine representation of the education sector and the community. Stakeholders will decide who attends, not the Ministry.
- Not everyone will be able to physically attend one of the Summit events; however, the engagement processes we're setting up will ensure that everyone gets a chance to have their say, both in the lead-up to the Summit and in the subsequent community conversations.
- We want to hear what you think. Please take part in the pre-Summit public survey and, once the Summit is over, take the conversation back to your community and whānau.

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