



Education Report: Review of Home-based ECE – draft Cabinet paper and draft discussion document

To:	Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	27/07/18	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1138995
Drafter:	s 9(2)(a)	DDI:	s 9(2)(a) OIA
Key contact and number:	Damian Edwards s 9(2)(a) OIA	Round robin:	No
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No		

Purpose of report

This paper provides you with:

- a draft discussion document for the Review of Home-based ECE and accompanying draft Cabinet paper
- the details of our consultation plan for the Review of Home-based ECE. This includes a proposed timeline in order to meet the date for drawing down the home-based ECE contingency.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **provide feedback** on the attached Cabinet paper and draft discussion document
- b. **agree** to lodge a Cabinet paper and discussion document on 9 August seeking Cabinet's agreement to consultation, with consultation beginning 21 August

Agree / Disagree

- c. **agree** to the approach to consultation, including hui in different regional centres and an online survey

Agree / Disagree

- d. **indicate** whether you would like to launch consultation

Yes / No

- e. **agree** that this Education Report is proactively released at the same time as the discussion document.

Agree / Disagree



Damian Edwards
Associate Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

27/7/18



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

31/7/18

Proactively Released

Background

1. Cabinet agreed to the Review of Home-based ECE in March 2018 [SWC-18-MIN-0004 refers]. The Review is intended to ensure policy settings support quality education and care for children in home-based ECE.

Timeline for the Cabinet paper and draft discussion document

2. You indicated your agreement to proposed options [METIS 1137153 refers]. These same options are outlined in the draft discussion document, which will be the primary tool for public consultation.
3. We will send out the papers for agency consultation on 27 July and propose that they are sent out for ministerial consultation at the same time. In order to progress the Cabinet paper and discussion document, we need your feedback by 31 July.
4. The table below outlines the current timeline for the Cabinet paper and discussion document to go to Cabinet.

	Current timeline
Agency consultation	27 July - 2 August
Ministerial consultation	
Feedback to Ministry on draft Cabinet paper	
Meeting with Ministry about the Review of Home-based ECE	31 July
Final draft to Minister's Office	7 August
Lodge with Cabinet Office for SWC	9 August
SWC meeting	15 August
Cabinet	20 August
Publicly release discussion document to begin consultation	21 August

Consultation

Discussion Document

5. The primary tool for engagement with the public will be through the attached, draft discussion document. The discussion document outlines options that seek to raise the quality of home-based ECE and ensure government funding is directed towards education and care.
6. The format of the discussion document is designed to support people to engage with the options. Questions at the end of each section are designed to start conversations about the proposed changes, but not limit feedback. The discussion document also

provides a broad overview of home-based ECE and outlines the reasons why we are doing the Review.

7. When finalised, the discussion document will use the overarching Kōrero Mātauranga branding and design. The discussion document will be put on the Kōrero Mātauranga website.

Methods of engagement

8. We ask that you indicate if you would like to launch consultation. The discussion document could include a foreword from you and you could make a press release announcing consultation. You may wish to launch consultation to encourage people to participate in consultation.
9. We propose a five week consultation period. This should provide time for feedback from a wide range of stakeholders without impacting on consultation periods for other work streams.
10. We propose seeking feedback using the following methods:
 - Online surveys
 - Regional hui
 - Targeted meetings.

Online surveys

11. We propose having three online surveys on the Kōrero Mātauranga website in order to hear from a range of stakeholders. These surveys would be open for the entirety of the five week consultation period.
12. The first survey would be short and open ended, targeted towards parents and the general public. This would be intended for anyone who would like to tell us their views about the Home-based ECE Review but may not want to engage with the discussion document or a longer survey.
13. A second survey would be tailored to educators as the proposed options are likely to have a distinct impact on this group. A third survey would be targeted at service providers and could also be completed by coordinators. These two surveys would be longer and more detailed than the short survey. Educators may have different interests in the proposed changes to service providers, so we would like to tailor questions to these two groups separately.

Regional hui

14. We propose holding hui in five regions: two in Auckland (Central and South) with further hui in Hamilton, Tauranga and Christchurch. These areas have been chosen due to their high number of educators and service providers, as well as their proximity to diverse population groups including Māori, Pacific people and migrant groups.
15. The Ministry would run these hui and record people's feedback. You could also attend hui if you would like to be involved in this consultation process. These hui would be open to the public and held during the day. They would be aimed at home-based ECE service providers and tertiary education providers.

16. We also propose attending the New Zealand Home-based Early Childhood Education Association (HBCA) Conference in Auckland on 21-23 September.

Targeted meetings

17. We propose having additional smaller meetings in each region, targeted mainly at getting feedback from educators. These meetings could also include coordinators and parents. These would likely be in the evening.
18. These meetings would be used to prioritise the gaps in our information so far. We would like to understand how the status quo arrangements work for educators, whether they support the proposed changes and what the implications of these changes would be for them.
19. We intend to understand how policy changes may affect children with disabilities. We will engage with groups representing children with different disabilities and will also link in with consultation for the Learning Support Action Plan.

Capturing Māori and Pacific voice

20. We intend for there to be information about the Review and an opportunity to provide feedback at wānanga being held for Ka Hikitia and fono being held for the Pacific Education Plan. If our consultation period does not overlap with these work programmes, then we will prioritise meeting with people from these groups when we visit the regions.

Timeline for Consultation

21. The table below outlines the current timeframe for consultation. We have pushed out our timeframe for consultation by one week from the timeline outlined in the Education Report on 9 July [METIS 1137153 refers].
22. This timeframe leaves little room for slippage to report back in December. There will be some overlap between the consultation and analysis period. Missing the date to report back to Cabinet in December may mean there is not enough time to develop criteria for drawing down the contingency for home-based ECE in January 2019.
23. If the December report back date were missed, it may be possible to draw down the contingency later in 2019 and pay it to services which meet criteria as an out of cycle payment.

	Current timeframe
Lodge paper seeking approval to consult on proposals	9 August
Cabinet	20 August
Public Consultation (5 weeks)	21 August - 24 September
Analysis of consultation, providing advice on revised options, costing options and drafting cabinet paper	18 September - 7 November (7 weeks)
Lodge Cab paper seeking approval for policy changes and criteria for contingency	29 November

SWC Meeting	5 December
Cabinet	10 December
Confirm funding adjustment rates for the ECE operational payment	End of January 2019
Apply the new funding rates – cost adjustment including contingency backdated to 1 January 2019	March 2019

Next Steps

24. Once we have received your feedback on the attached draft discussion document and Cabinet paper, and following agency feedback, we will revise the draft for ministerial consultation.

Proactive Release

25. We propose that this Education Report be proactively released at the same time as the discussion document, as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be withheld in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.