



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2019, to the Ministry of Education to request the following information:

All advice, briefings, or communication the Ministry of Education or Minister of Education has received, passed on about, or had with:

- Mike King
- The Tu Kotahi pilot programme

On 7 February 2018, we transferred responsibility for responding to emails on this subject matter to the Ministry of Health, in its capacity as the agency responsible for the Tu Kotahi Governance Group, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as this aspect of your request is more closely connected to its functions.

This letter provides a response to the remaining parts of your request, for: **advice or briefings the Ministry of Education has received, passed on or had with Mike King or the Tu Kotahi programme.**

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) and the Privacy Act 1993.

Building resilience and ensuring access to support for young people plays an important role in ensuring health, secure futures and reduces mental distress and illness. Not all young people will access and health services, and for some, opportunities to support their wellbeing can be missed.

Tu Kotahi translates to 'standing together' and is based on Māori concepts of health and wellbeing. The concept of Tu Kotahi is to work with schools to find pathways for young people's friends to find the help they need.

The Pilot aligns with the Government's commitment to improving mental health and wellbeing, by building resilience among high school students. It builds on a range of programmes and resources the Ministry of Education has in place to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people, including the school-wide Positive Behaviour for Learning framework, and school-based health services.

The Ministry of Education worked in partnership with the Ministry of Health in the procurement of the programme, and has representatives on the Tu Kotahi Governance Group.

There is one document within scope of the remaining part of your request. This document is titled *Briefing Note: Implementation of the Tu Kotahi Pilot Programme*. It was provided to the Minister of Education Hon Chris Hipkins in November 2018. I am releasing this to you in full.

Thank you again for your request. If you have any further questions on this issue, we recommend you contact the Ministry of Health's Media Team in the first instance, at media@moh.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3), you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written over the printed name.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support



Briefing Note: Implementation of the Tu Kotahi Pilot Programme

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	26 November 2018	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1168317
Drafter:	Shelley Dean	DDI:	03 528 1757
Key Contact:	David Wales	DDI:	04 463 7669
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note that this briefing informs you of the implementation of the Tu Kotahi Pilot Programme, funded by the Ministry of Health, within four Auckland-based schools, over the 2019 academic year.

Note Officials from Ministry of Health are briefing Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Summary

- Four schools in the Auckland region will pilot the programme developed by Key to Life Trust in the 2019 school year. Mike King is founder of Key to Life Trust. The four proposed schools are: Pukekohe High School, Whangaparoa College, Manurewa High School and Papakura High School.
- The Ministry of Health are the lead agency for this trial with funding provided by the Health Budget. A Governance group comprising of Health, Education, Te Rau Matatini, and Key to Life Trust are overseeing the pilot, the evaluation of the pilot and have developed a communication plan.

- There has been much public and media interest in the work of Mike King. It possible that the media may confuse this programme as a suicide prevention programme, rather than a wellbeing and resilience programme. A communication plan has been agreed by the governance group to mitigate these risks.



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

26/11/2018

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Background

Tu Kotahi Pilot Programme

1. Tu Kotahi Pilot Programme (the Programme) is a student-led wellbeing and resilience programme in schools which connects young people to support using a group of trained peer-supporters. It was developed by Ezekiel Raui, a rangatahi from Northland with Key to Life Trust in response to suicides of five young people in his community. Mike King is the founder of Key to Life Trust. Tu Kotahi translates to 'standing together' and aims 'to work with our school to pathway troubled friends to the help that they need'.
2. The Programme trains 30 students at each school with the appropriate knowledge, skills and connections to be contact points for peers. These 30 students are supported by two youth leaders who work with each school and a registered health professional in a navigator role to support referrals for students and whanau with wellbeing needs. The whole Tu Kotahi team will work with and compliment the wider school pastoral teams to connect students seeking support to appropriate community and or mental health or addiction services.

Pilot development

3. Key to Life Trust approached the Ministry of Health in 2017 with the proposed programme. Tu Kotahi underwent a closed procurement process led by the Ministry of Health. Te Rau Matatini (TRM) offered to hold the contract for Key to Life Trust (KTLT). TRM are subcontracting KTLT to deliver the programme.
4. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Te Rau Matatini and Key to Life Trust have formed a Governance group and are working collaboratively to trial the Tu Kotahi.
5. The programme, including the evaluation component is expected to cost up to \$2M.
6. Four schools in the Auckland region will implement the programme in the 2019 school year. These schools were chosen via selection criteria developed by the Tu Kotahi Governance Group. This criteria included: numbers of students; student demographics; pastoral and counselling support within the school; availability of the necessary facilities within the school, along with appropriate school leadership and commitment to the Programme.
7. The four proposed schools are: Pukekohe High School, Whangaparoa College, Manurewa High School and Papakura High School. Should one of these not proceed, Howick High School will be offered the fourth place
8. A robust impact and process evaluation will be carried out by an external provider over the course of the programme.

Key Risks and Benefits

9. There has been much public and media interest in the work of Mike King. It is likely that he may wish to share information about the programme publicly in his communications / presentations, or with the media.
10. It is also possible that the media may confuse this programme as a suicide prevention programme, rather than a wellbeing and resilience programme.

11. An extensive communications plan has been shared amongst the Tu Kotahi Governance Group. This plan outlines agreed key messages and confirms required agreement from all parties prior to any proactive or reactive public or media-based activities.
12. Not all schools who indicated interest in having the programme in their schools were chosen for the trial. A letter outlining why they were not successful will be sent once the agreed Pilot schools are notified.
13. [REDACTED] has sought information relating to Mike King, the Tu Kotahi programme and how the funding decision for Tu Kotahi was reached. [REDACTED] will receive this information in the next week from the Ministry of Health.

Proactive Release

14. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.