

PSKH Round 5 Summary Report of Expression of Interest Outcomes

28 March 2017

Executive Summary

1. The Expression of Interest (EOI) closed on 3 March 2017 with nineteen expressions of interest received. Of these, seven were science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) applications and twelve related to improving educational outcomes for Priority Learners (priority learner) applications.
2. Following an evaluation process (including the Ministry Evaluation team assessment), the Partnership Schools Authorisation Board (the Board) agreed to shortlist eleven respondents. These respondents are recommended to be invited to submit a full application to open a Partnership School in 2019.
3. The Board resolved not to short list the remaining eight respondents.
4. The immediate next step is for a senior Ministry of Education (Ministry) official to receive the Board's recommended shortlist, and with reference to the process, endorse proceeding to the next stage.
5. Respondents will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process in early April 2017.
6. All respondents (both shortlisted and unsuccessful) will be provided with feedback on their application.
7. All respondents will be provided with contact information for E Tipu e Rea to enable them to seek support for either this application process or future application rounds, should they wish to.

Overview of Evaluation Process

8. Nineteen compliant applications (seven STEM and 12 priority learners) for the EOI were received and evaluated by the Ministry Evaluation Team (MET). The MET provided advice and preliminary weighted scores to the Board.
9. The EOI sought information in relation to seven key attributes of a Partnership School:
 - a. Capability of the Sponsor
 - b. Special Character and Key Focus of the School
 - c. Educational Programme
 - d. School Leadership and Teacher Quality
 - e. Achieving Enrolments
 - f. Sourcing of School Premises and Other Major Resources
 - g. Partnerships
10. The MET reviewed each response with respect to these attributes, scoring them on a 10 point scale from 'unacceptable' and 'serious reservations' to 'excellent'. Contextual information provided by the applicant in other sections of their response (eg static information on targeting, scale and location) was also reviewed.
11. The MET advice was distributed to the Board on 14 March 2017.
12. As per section 3.1.3 of the EOI and 17.3 of the Evaluation Plan the Board were required to "review the analysis and preliminary scores provided by the Ministry, alongside their own independent assessments to confirm or amend the preliminary scores provided. A justification will be recorded for any changes to preliminary scores".
13. The Board then met on 17 March 2017 to consider the MET advice and discuss the responses.
14. Having undertaken an individual assessment and reviewed the MET advice prior to the meeting, the Board used a "voting system" to determine which applications they would like to discuss further and which ones they would accept the METs advice without further need for discussion. There were 3 categories to the voting: A – support progression to shortlisting; B – maybe; C – do not support progression and will be considered an unsuccessful applicant.

For each applicant, each Board member gave their vote, and where there was no clear consensus, discussion took place to decide whether or not to shortlist.

15. The outcome of the process was that the Board either accepted the Ministry's recommendation, or had a strong rationale for not doing so (as per section 3.1.1 of the EOI).
16. There were four departures from the Ministry's advice and scoring, where the Board had a different recommended outcome to the Ministry. External probity advisors have requested that a clear reconciliation and rationale for this be included in this paper and this is attached at Appendix 1.
17. The Board recommend a shortlist of 11 respondents be invited to respond to the full request for application based on the clarity and strength of their applications. s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA
18. Of the 11 shortlisted respondents, [REDACTED] is an alternative education provider. The Board recommended shortlisting them on the condition that the performance measures in the Government's Priority Learners Partnership Schools Agreement be changed to meet the bespoke needs of the respondent. Officials reviewed this matter and concluded that Section 2.7(iii) of the EOI outlines the current contractual Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and the respondent applied knowing this was the case. Additionally, the Ministry does not currently have any mandate or delegation to offer terms different to those specified for priority learner schools. On this basis, the applicant will be made aware of the current KPIs and asked to address the achievability of their KPIs in their application, should they decide to proceed with their application.
19. At the same meeting the Board decided not to invite eight of the respondents to participate in the full request for application process. This was as a result of the significant reservations the Board had regarding the applications. The Board recommend that these applicants be unsuccessful in this process.
20. Following the meeting, Ministry officials confirmed the New Zealand Companies registration and Charities registration details of each of the shortlisted applicants. Where there were differences between the response document and the official registration information, this was queried. All questions asked by the Ministry have been clarified. All shortlisted respondents are registered as either as a company or an incorporated charity.
21. Probity Advisors, Tresscox Lawyers, were present at the Board Evaluation meeting and their report will be sought following the formalisation of this report.

Summary of Results

Summary Information on shortlisted respondents to be invited to respond to full application process

22. The Board has shortlisted the following eleven respondents based on the strength of their applications. A brief summary of each respondent's application is listed below.

STEM Applicants

- a. **The Mind Lab by Unitec** proposed a Partnership School in Mt Albert, Auckland for students in years 9-13. Innovation and a 21st century focus would be key features of the proposed school, and a mentor system between Year 9 and 13 students would be established. The Board agreed with the MET's view that this applicant should be invited to submit a full application to open a Partnership School in 2019.
- b. **Green STEAM Limited** proposed a partnership school based in the Wynyard Quarter in Auckland for students in years 11-13. The proposed school would offer a STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts and Mathematics) adaptation of the NZ curriculum, with a green focus, as well as tertiary and international online certifications and qualifications. The Board agreed with the MET's view that this applicant should be invited to submit a full application to open a Partnership School in 2019.

c.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

d.

Priority Learner Applicants

- e. **Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa - Turanga Ararau** proposed a Partnership School in Gisborne for students in years 9-11. The school proposes to offer NCEA Levels 1 and 2, and would tailor the curriculum to individual students while linking to their Iwi, Hapū and Marae. After discussion about the small scale of the proposed school, the Board noted that this was not an evaluation criteria for round 5. The Board agreed with the MET's view that this applicant should be invited to submit a full application to open a Partnership School in 2019.

f.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

- g. **Manukau Urban Maori Authority** proposed their second Partnership School. This school is proposed to be in multiple locations in South Auckland, and for students in years 10-13. The proposed school would engage with whānau in a holistic matter, with wrap around support to lead to academic excellence in the achievement of NCEA Levels 1-3 and National Certificate in Maori (Te Waharoa) Level 2. The Board agreed with the MET's view that this applicant should be invited to submit a full application to open a Partnership School in 2019. However, the Board had strong reservations on a number of matters, and requested that these be communicated to the applicant as part of the full application process:
- a. the performance at their current Partnership School
 - b. the achievability of the breadth of subjects proposed, with greater clarity needed on delivery of these subjects
 - c. the logistical and cost implications of the proposed school being spread over a number of locations
 - d. the academic programme and curriculum proposed requires significantly more depth.
- h. **Advance Training Group Ltd** proposed their second Partnership School; with this school being for students years 11-13 and to be situated in Christchurch. Their proposed second school is consistent with their first, in that it will use the training methodology of the military and offer NCEA Levels 1-3. The MET ranked this applicant as fourth, but did not make any recommendation on whether they should be shortlisted. The Board recommended this applicant be invited to submit a full application on the strength of their Round 5 EOI application. The Board noted that the applicant is also a successful current sponsor of an existing Partnership School.

i.

j.

k.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA



23. During the EOI process, key points for further clarification that the Board wished to see addressed within the full application process were identified for each applicant. These points will be provided to the applicants as part of the debrief process.

Summary Information on unsuccessful Applicants

24. The Board will not be inviting the following respondents to participate in the full application process.

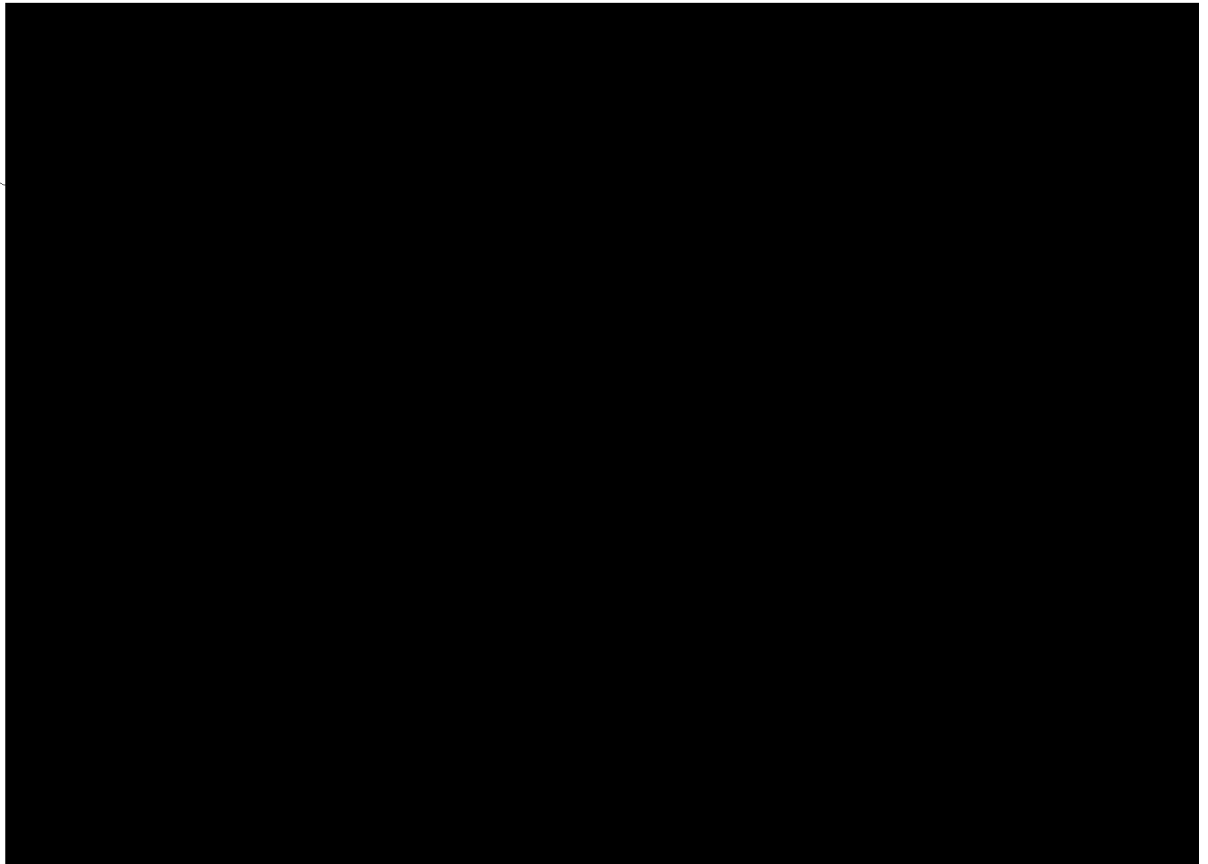
STEM Applicants

a.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

b.

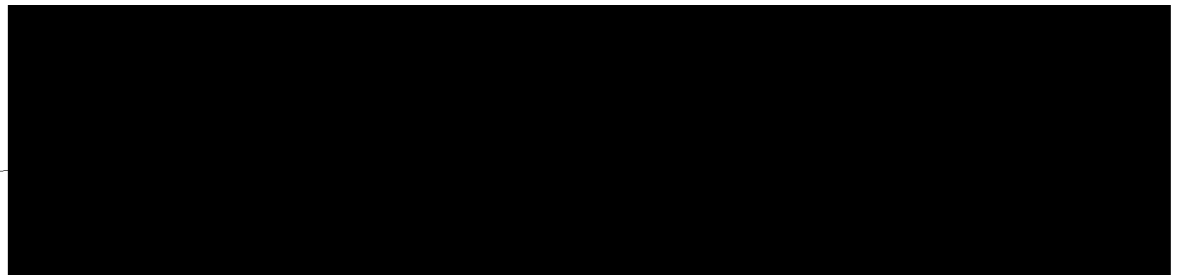
c.



Priority Learner Applicants

d.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA



e.

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

f.

g.

h.

25. All unsuccessful respondents will be provided with a written debrief. This feedback may assist EOI respondents to develop stronger responses for future Partnership School application rounds.

Compliance with Government Procurement Requirements and Probity

26. The preliminary evaluation undertaken by the MET followed the process outlined in the EOI documents. A letter was provided by independent probity advisers, TressCox Lawyers, indicating a complaint process (attached).
27. Conflicts of Interest were checked by the Board Chair and declared by Board members at the start of their meeting and managed by the Board Chair. One Board member declared a conflict in relation to one applicant and left the room when that applicant was discussed.
28. TressCox's representative at the meeting indicated general comfort that the process was compliant. However, this is subject to his review of Board's final report (this paper) noting the clear rationale for where the Board departed from the MET advice (as per EOI 3.1.3).

Next Steps

29. Following the acceptance of this report by the Chair, a probity report will be requested from TressCox Lawyers. A recommendation will then be made to a senior Ministry of Education official to receive the Board's recommendation on the shortlist, and with reference to the process and the recommended outcome, endorse proceeding to the next stage. This is planned for late March 2017.

30. The Ministry plans to give all respondents feedback in early April. The Ministry will also provide them with the contact information to E Tipu e Rea to enable respondents to seek support for either this application process or future application rounds.
31. The Request for Application will be issued once all respondents have been informed of the outcome of the EOI process. This is expected to be in early April, with a closing date in May 2017.
32. We are currently on track for the Round 5 procurement timeline. The Board, supported by Ministry officials, will complete the evaluation of the Round 5 applications by early July 2017, with contracts expected to be signed in August 2017.

Appendix 1. Reconciliation of Board's Recommendation to Ministry's advice

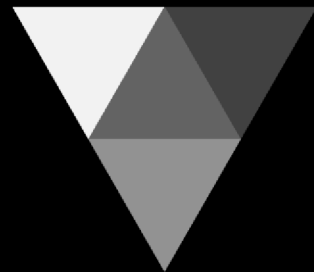
Reference Code	Applicant Name	Ministry Advice	Board Recommendation	Rationale and justification to change to the initial Advice (as per Eol section 3.1.3)
STEM1	[REDACTED]	Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful	NA
STEM2		Shortlist	Unsuccessful	The Applicant did not sufficiently demonstrate a strong STEM focus and it was not significantly differentiated from subjects offered in current state schools
STEM3	Green STEAM Limited	Shortlist	Shortlist	NA
STEM4	[REDACTED]	Unsuccessful	Shortlist	The application was noted as impressive and innovative concept, and there was a general enthusiasm for the basic idea.
STEM5		Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful	NA
STEM6	The Mind Lab by Unitec	Shortlist	Shortlist	NA
STEM7	[REDACTED]	Shortlist	Shortlist	NA
PL1		Unsuccessful	Shortlist	<p>The Board noted that the application was well backed by well known people from Canterbury, and it was a stronger application than [REDACTED] had made in previous application rounds.</p> <p>The short listing is conditional on the performance measures in the Government's Priority Learners PSKH Agreement being changed to meet the bespoke needs of the school (refer to paragraph 18 in report).</p>
PL2	Advance Training Group Ltd	No recommendation made	Shortlist	NA
PL3	[REDACTED]	Unsuccessful	Shortlist	The Board noted that the Applicant presented an innovative concept and the Board would like

Reference Code	Applicant Name	Ministry Advice	Board Recommendation	Rationale and justification to change to the initial Advice (as per EoI section 3.1.3)
				to see a full application from this respondent.
PL4		Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful	NA
PL5		No recommendation made	Unsuccessful	NA
PL6		Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful	NA
PL7		No recommendation made	Shortlist	NA
PL8		Shortlist	Shortlist	NA
PL9	Manukau Urban Māori Authority	Shortlist	Shortlist	NA
PL10		No recommendation made	Unsuccessful	NA
PL11		Unsuccessful	Unsuccessful	NA
PL12	Tu Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa - Turanga Ararau	Shortlist	Shortlist	NA

s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA

Appendix 2 Ministry Due Diligence Checks against Company Office and Charity Register

Reference Code	Applicant	Companies Office or Registration Number		Check Completed
STEM3	Green STEAM Limited	6246370		Confirmed registration with Companies Office 23/03/17
STEM4				Confirmed registration with Charities Services 23/03/17
STEM6		s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA		23/03/17
STEM7				23/03/17
PL1				Confirmed registration with Charities Services 23/03/2017
PL2	Advance Training Group Ltd	4612272		Confirmed registrations with Companies Office 23/03/17
PL3			s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA	Confirmed registration with Companies Office for Parent Company 23/03/17
PL7		There are inconsistencies between the three officers listed on charities register and the board members listed in section 1.2(i) of the application		Confirmation of registration with the Companies Office Societies and Trust Register 28/03/17
PL8		s 9(2)(b)(ii) OIA		Confirmed registration with Charities Services 23/03/17
PL9	Manukau Urban Maori Authority	294854		Confirmation with the Companies office Societies and Trust Register 28/03/17
PL12	Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa - Turanga Ararau	CC27205		Confirmed registration with Charities Services 23/03/17



Lifting aspiration and raising educational
achievement **for every New Zealander**