

## **Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua First Quarter Reports and ERO Readiness Report**

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### **Executive summary**

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1. All Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua sponsors submitted to the Ministry their first quarter reports by the required date of 30 April 2014 using a template developed by the Ministry.
2. Clause 18.2(c) of the Partnership Schools agreement states that a quarterly report will only be accepted once approved by the Minister. We recommend that you approve the first quarter reports as submitted.
3. The Ministry notes that all five schools are operationally compliant with the Partnership Schools agreement and, excluding the student achievement performance standards (which are not yet due), have achieved the applicable targets.
4. Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust and Advance Training Centres have requested variations to their Agreements. Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust has requested a change to their school name and to decrease the percentage of registered teachers and increase the percentage of non-registered teachers. Advance Training Centres Limited has requested a change to their sponsor name.
5. We seek your approval to these variations. Following your approval, varied agreements will be forwarded to you for signing.
6. The Ministry has received four of the five readiness reviews from the Education Review Office (ERO). The ERO readiness reviews are designed to provide assurance to the Ministry of Education that each Sponsor is prepared to operate effectively as their school opens.
7. Given the publically well known challenges Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru has had in the establishment and initial operation of its school, the readiness review period has been extended until the end of August 2014 with a final report to be provided on 19 September 2014.
8. ERO has advised that South Auckland Middle School, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa, The Rise UP Academy and Vanguard Military School are all fit for purpose and have good engagement with their students. Where ERO has identified an area for further development, they have expressed their confidence in each school's capacity to address these matters.
9. ERO will complete their public assurance reports which are anticipated to be available at the end of September 2014 (excluding Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru). The schools will then be reviewed again 18 months after their opening. Thereafter reviews will be on the same review cycle as state schools.
10. Following your approval of the first quarter reports, the Ministry intends to proactively release the first quarter reports and the ERO readiness reviews on the Ministry of Education website.

## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **note** that all Sponsors submitted, to the Ministry, their first quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014 by the required date of 30 April 2014

- b. **approve** the attached first quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014

 AGREE / DISAGREE

- c. **note** Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust and Advance Training Centres Limited have requested variations to their Agreements

- d. **approve** the following variations:

### Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust

- i. change of school name from Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru to Te Pumanawa O Te Wairua

 AGREE / DISAGREE

- ii. decrease the percentage of registered teachers from 70% to 65% and increase the percentage of non-registered teachers from 15% to 17.5%

 AGREE / DISAGREE

### Advance Training Centres Limited

- iii. change the Sponsor name from Advance Training Centres Limited to Advance Training Group

 AGREE / DISAGREE

- e. **note** ERO has submitted readiness reviews for four of the five Partnership Schools to the Ministry of Education

- f. **note** ERO advise that South Auckland Middle School, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa, The Rise UP Academy and Vanguard Military School are all fit for purpose and have good engagement with their students.

- g. **note** the Ministry and ERO agreed that the readiness review period for Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru be extended until the end of August 2014

- h. **note** that following your approval of the first quarter reports, the Ministry will proactively release the first quarter reports and the ERO readiness reviews on the Ministry of Education website.



Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

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Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

10/9/17

## **Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua First Quarter Reports and ERO Readiness Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

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1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - i. seek your approval for the first quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014 from the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua (Partnership Schools) that opened in 2014
  - ii. approve three variations to the Sponsor agreements
  - iii. provide you with the ERO readiness reviews completed for four of the five Partnership Schools
  - iv. seek your approval to publically release the first quarter reports and the ERO readiness reviews.

### **Quarterly Reports**

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#### **Background**

2. Clause 18.2(b)(i) of the Partnership Schools agreement requires the Sponsors to complete and submit to the Minister quarterly reports by 30 April, 31 July and 31 October of each school year in relation to the previous three months of that school year.
3. Clause 18.2(c) of the agreement states that a quarterly report will only be accepted once approved by the Minister. The Minister may, if she is not satisfied with the level of detail contained in the report, require the Sponsor to amend the report and resubmit within any timeframe specified by the Minister.

#### **First quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014**

4. All Sponsors submitted to the Ministry their first quarter reports by the required date of 30 April 2014 using a template developed by the Ministry.
5. All Sponsors have received and considered feedback from the Ministry and have resubmitted their first quarter reports for your approval (attached as Appendix 1).
6. We recommend that you approve the reports as submitted. We expect that the quality of the reports will improve over time as the schools move into a business as usual state. The Ministry has now revised the template following assessment of the first quarter reports and feedback received from the Sponsors.
7. Below is a summary of the key points from each first quarter report:

### ***South Auckland Middle School***

8. The school reports that :
- i. it has established a strong school culture and student/teacher expectations
  - ii. an initial academic baseline evaluation of each student has been completed
  - iii. they are progressing with the implementation of their whānau engagement policy and the parent information evening had 85% whānau attendance, have implemented a weekly whānau newsletter and a Whānau Advisory Group has been established
  - iv. for term 2, the school plans to develop and implement an afterschool homework programme and parent development workshops
  - v. they have a number of external agencies providing social programmes for students and parents onsite, to support effective learning.
9. The Ministry notes that the school is operationally compliant with the agreement and, excluding student achievement performance standards (which are not yet due), has achieved the applicable targets.

### ***Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa***

10. The school reports that:
- i. they have started well with a kura that have the people, policies, systems and culture in place to enable them to deliver on the core KPIs in the short/medium term and innovation in the long term
  - ii. the ākonga have settled in well and are strongly participating in and contributing to kura life
  - iii. they have developed personalised learning plans for all senior ākonga
  - iv. established an academic mentoring programme to help guide ākonga with their academic planning, decision-making and time management
  - v. they have ākonga in NCEA Level One completing the first assessments for Maths, Science and Social Science with provisional results looking promising.
11. The Ministry notes that the school is operationally compliant with the agreement and, excluding the performance standards for student achievement (which are not yet due), has achieved the applicable targets, and has no specific concerns to note.

### ***Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru***

12. The school reports that:
- i. the remote location of the school as both the biggest strength as well as a challenging opportunity to overcome
  - ii. they are able to provide access to an authentic environmental education with access to local hāpu and marae and the removal of urban distractions
  - iii. the challenges with the remote location of the school are the limited housing options for staff, distance from town and education resource providers and the long travel distances for staff and students
  - iv. they have strengthened their Senior Management Team by appointing an interim CEO
  - v. the focus for term two is to fill the remaining two teaching positions and to improve their project based planning and delivery.

13. The Ministry notes that, despite the challenges, the school is operationally compliant with the agreement and, excluding the performance standards for student achievement (which are not yet due), has achieved the applicable requirements. The restructure of the school management team has resolved all of the identified issues, allowing the school to focus on the delivery of the educational requirements expected of it. The Ministry will continue to closely monitor the progress of the school

***The Rise UP Academy***

14. The school reports that:
- i. they have established a learning community where students and their whānau feel safe and appear to be thriving in their learning
  - ii. teachers and students have settled into daily class routines, classroom programmes and school wide expectations, using the inquiry learning model providing opportunities for students to think critically
  - iii. significant investment into effective community engagement and collaboration, resulting in 100% attendance at the first three way conferences, which they believe demonstrates the commitment of their parents to 'raise the bar' for their children's learning journey
  - iv. an academic baseline evaluation of each student has been completed and that the lead teacher supports teachers and students through professional development, observations and ongoing formal and informal feedback
  - v. for term two, the school plans to focus on its financial sustainability and planning for steady roll increases. The school's broader focus over the remainder of 2014 is staff pastoral care and development of excellent teachers.
15. The Ministry notes that the school is operationally compliant with the agreement and, excluding the performance standards for student achievement (which are not yet due), has achieved the applicable targets, and has no specific concerns to note.

***Vanguard Military School***

16. The school reports that:
- i. the Sponsor, Advisory Board, CEO and the Principal are pleased with the performance of their school over the first three months
  - ii. they strive for academic excellence and believe they have made a very positive start. Assessment results vary from between 80% – 97% success rates
  - iii. each student is individually monitored and a culture of success is now engrained in the students thinking. Students are engaged, safe, and have a sense of pride about the school
  - iv. monitoring and assisting all students with their individual needs is the school's major focus
  - v. regular reporting to students and family/whānau has occurred. Student reports, parent teacher interviews and ANZAC Day Parade events were scheduled to occur shortly after the submission of their first quarter report.
17. The Ministry notes that the school is operationally compliant with the agreement and, excluding the performance standards for student achievement (which are not yet due), has achieved the applicable targets, and has no specific concerns to note.

## General comment

18. There is no substantive information provided within the first quarter reports covering curriculum, teaching and learning or achievement, or on the achievement tools used to complete the baseline assessments. The Ministry will continue to work with each of the Sponsors to ensure that these areas are further developed and provide sufficient details in future reports to maintain confidence in their systems and processes in this area.

## Variations to Agreements

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19. As part of the quarterly review process, some Sponsors have requested, in writing, variations to their agreements. As per clause 34.12 of the Partnership Schools agreement, no amendment is effective unless it is in writing and signed by both parties.
20. Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust has requested:
- a change to their school name from Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru to Te Pumanawa O Te Wairua, the name given to them by their local kaumatua at the formal opening of their school.
  - a variation to Schedule 4(2) to decrease the percentage of registered teachers and increase the percentage of non-registered teachers due to the difficulty in attracting registered teachers to the Kura.
21. The Ministry has been assured that the variation to the percentage of their teachers will not have an impact on the delivery of their curriculum. We consider this request as pragmatic and necessary to ensure the school meets the educational outcomes set out in its agreement. The Trust will still look to employ qualified, but unregistered teachers.
22. The following table sets out the change being requested by the school:

	Registered	Limited Authority to Teach	Non Registered
Current	70%	15%	15%
Proposed	65%	17.5%	17.5%

23. Advance Training Centres Limited (Vanguard Military School) has requested:
- a change to their Sponsor name from Advance Training Centres Limited to Advance Training Group.
24. The school's advisory board feels that now the school is operating that the designated Sponsor should change from Advance Training Centres Ltd which is the Private Training Establishment (PTE) and be replaced with Advance Training Group which is the management company that looks after both Vanguard Military School and Advance Training Centres Limited.
25. We seek your approval to the above variations. Following your approval, varied agreements will be forwarded to you for signing.

## ERO Readiness Reports

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### Background

26. The Ministry entered into an agreement with ERO on 27 September 2013 to conduct a readiness review for each of the first five Partnership Schools culminating in a final report to the Ministry at the end of April 2014 (attached as Appendix 2).
27. The ERO readiness review is designed to provide assurance to the Ministry of Education that each Sponsor is prepared to operate effectively as their school opens. ERO has reviewed the planning, processes, systems and procedures so far developed by the management team of each Partnership School.
28. ERO will also undertake an accountability review of each Partnership School by the end of September 2014, to provide public assurance to whether the school has effective processes and planning to provide quality education for its community.
29. ERO has been working with each Partnership School since September 2013. In December 2013, ERO provided the Ministry an interim report on each of the Partnership Schools commenting on the progress at that time [METIS 830938 refers].

### Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru readiness review

30. ERO had noted a number of concerns about Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru, who has experienced challenges in normalising the operations of the school since opening.
31. It is publically well known the challenges Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru has had in the establishment and initial operation of its school. For this reason, the Ministry and ERO agreed that the review period be extended until the end of August 2014 with a final report being provided on 19 September 2014. This would then also delay ERO's public assurance report for this school, which would not be available until July 2015.
32. Extending the review period allows a fair and reasonable opportunity for the Sponsor to address the identified issues and demonstrate its capability to operate a successful school. Having ERO remain engaged closely with the school will also give the Ministry an external perspective not otherwise easily able to be provided.
33. This extended review period may create the perception that the Ministry is not running a robust process and/or that the Ministry is trying to hide the findings provided by ERO. The extension of time is defensible due to the already high level of public awareness surrounding the school and the challenges it has faced.

### Readiness reviews

34. ERO advise that South Auckland Middle School, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa, The Rise UP Academy and Vanguard Military School are all fit for purpose and have good engagement with their students.
35. Below is a summary of key points made by ERO on each school:



### ***South Auckland Middle School***

36. The key findings from ERO include:
- i. good progress by the Sponsor has been made in the time available to set up and operate a new school and the leased property is attractive and spacious
  - ii. a clear commitment to programmes that provide academic challenge and teacher's expectations are high.
  - iii. efficient and effective processes for managing the school have been established
  - iv. students talk positively about the size of both the school and their classes and are enjoying the independent nature of project learning.
37. Areas for further development identified by ERO include:
- v. developing self review across all areas of the school's operation
  - vi. continuing to improve assessment policy and procedures so that there can be reliable reporting against National Standards for students in Years 7 and 8
  - vii. continuing to develop robust ways of determining baseline student achievement data
  - viii. continuing to develop a policy framework to support the work of the school.

### ***Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa***

38. The key findings from ERO include:
- i. students and staff have developed a sense of whānau and belonging to their whakapapa and to the school
  - ii. achieved Consent to Assess status from NZQA in a short timeframe
  - iii. governance and leadership systems are robust and appropriate systems for performance appraisal, maintaining teacher registration and police vetting are in place
  - iv. a spacious property that provides multi-purpose learning spaces.
39. Areas for further development identified by ERO include:
- v. appoint teachers with appropriate kaupapa, qualification and expertise and build a shared understanding of effective teaching and learning
  - vi. gathering appropriate, valid and robust data to establish baseline data
  - vii. develop purposeful PLPs to develop suitable pathways for students and differentiate teaching and learning for students
  - viii. ongoing development and provision of ICT in the curriculum.

### ***The Rise UP Academy***

40. The key findings from ERO include:
- i. data indicates high levels of student attendance at the school
  - ii. governance and management roles are clearly defined and good processes in place to sustain effective governance and good school management systems have been established.
  - iii. warm, respectful relationships between staff and students and purposeful learning are evident in classroom
  - iv. successful in attracting teachers who are engaged in the local community.

41. Areas for further development identified by ERO include:
- v. teachers' understanding of the use of assessment processes to identify individual learning needs
  - vi. teachers' capacity to report on student achievement in relation to National Standards
  - vii. ongoing monitoring of how well the school promotes a safe physical environment
  - viii. provision of specialist resources for science, reading and art.

***Vanguard Military School***

42. The key findings from ERO include:
- i. that the sponsor has worked hard to build a model of schooling that will support students with a clear vision that is specific in its intention
  - ii. favourable teacher to student ratios that enables small class sizes
  - iii. very high attendance rates show that students are committed to being at school to learn
  - iv. the school curriculum and teaching and learning practices clearly reflect the school's vision and philosophy.
43. Areas for further development identified by ERO include:
- v. gathering appropriate, valid and robust baseline data through standardised assessment tools to inform teaching and learning
  - vi. further development of the school curriculum and ongoing consideration of ways to integrate ICT into the curriculum
  - vii. establish a systematic approach to self review across all school operations and practices
  - viii. ensure all policies and procedures relate to the applicable Ministry of Education guidelines.
44. Where ERO has identified an area for further development, they have expressed their confidence in each school's capacity to address these matters.
45. ERO will complete their public assurance reports which are anticipated to be available at the end of September 2014 (excluding Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru). The schools will then be reviewed again 18 months after their opening. Thereafter reviews will be on the same review cycle as state schools<sup>1</sup>.

## **Next Steps**

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46. Following your approval of the first quarter reports, the Ministry intends to proactively release the first quarter reports and the ERO readiness reviews on the Ministry of Education website. This release will address a number of requests the Ministry has already received for these reports. ERO have been consulted and it has no concern with the readiness reviews being released.

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<sup>1</sup> Reviews are every three years unless the schools are doing very well (then may have a longer review cycle) or give cause for concern (then may have a shorter review cycle).



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

*Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga*

47. Following your approval to the contract variations from Advance Training Centres Limited and Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust, we will forward the variation documents for you to sign.
48. We will provide you with separate advice about your ability to appoint someone to administer the Partnership Schools Agreements on your behalf under clause 34.1(a) of the contract. You may determine that delegation of powers could be desirable in order to place the decision-making about what could be considered operational matters (such as change in school name) with a nominated person.