

Education Report Including Partnership Kura in the Managed Network for Learning

This paper recommends that you agree that Partnership Kura be eligible for the managed network on the same basis as state and state-integrated schools.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Minister and the Associate Minister

- a. **note** that there is a strong case for including Partnership Kura in the managed network initiative because it will be an important tool for improving teaching and learning, and priority students are among those who will most benefit
- b. **agree** that Partnership Kura should be eligible for the managed network on the same basis as state and state-integrated schools

AGREE / DISAGREE

AGREE / DISAGREE

c.

[REDACTED]

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

d.

[REDACTED]

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

- e. **agree** that Partnership Kura should also be centrally funded to benefit from the affordability of the core network for learning package [REDACTED]

AGREE / DISAGREE

AGREE / DISAGREE

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

- f. **note** that there is sufficient funding within the managed network budget to cover the extension of the network to the five existing Partnership Kura and a small number of additional Partnership Kura if more are established through future application rounds
- g. **forward** this report to the Minister of Finance, Hon Bill English, as the other shareholding Minister in Network for Learning Ltd.



Ben O'Meara
Group Manager
Schooling Policy

NOTED / APPROVED



Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

___/___/___

NOTED / APPROVED



Hon Nikki Kaye
Associate Minister of Education

___/___/___

Education Report: Partnership Kura and the Managed Network for Learning

Purpose of report

1. This paper asks you to agree that Partnership Kura should be eligible for the managed network on the same basis as state and state-integrated schools.

Background

2. The managed network policy had not been announced at the time the resourcing policy for Partnership Kura was determined. This is the first example of the need to decide whether or not Partnership Kura should be included in new initiatives.
3. Network for Learning Ltd was set up by Cabinet to offer state and state-integrated schools access to affordable, safe, fast broadband services and internet-based content and services over a dedicated network [Cab Min (12) 8/4 refers]. Network for Learning Ltd will procure connectivity in bulk at a significantly reduced cost to provide affordable services to schools.
4. The Ministry will fund a basic connectivity package for any eligible state and state-integrated school that chooses to connect to it.¹ If schools want more than the centrally-funded package provides, they can purchase additional connectivity from Network for Learning Ltd, using their operations grant or locally-raised funds.

Rationale for inclusion of Partnership Kura

5. There is a strong case for including Partnership Kura in the managed network. Partnership Kura are targeted at improving outcomes for priority students. The managed network will be an important tool for improving teaching and learning, and priority students are among those who will most benefit.² Using digital technologies over the managed network will give students in Partnership Kura access to a wide range of teaching and learning resources that can enhance their learning and engagement.
6. Including Partnership Kura in the managed network will contribute to Government's goal of equitable access for all schools and students. It will ensure that teachers and students at Partnership Kura can benefit from collaboration with teachers, school leaders and students around New Zealand.

Funding

7. The Ministry of Education will pay Network for Learning Ltd on behalf of state and state-integrated schools for the core connectivity package [REDACTED]

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

¹ To be eligible for connection to the Network for Learning, a school must have fibre installed (or an alternative in the case of a few remote schools).

² For example, a large study in the United States has found that, when used well, digital technology can have a positive impact on student engagement and student learning outcomes. (Greaves et al "The Technology Factor: Nine Keys to Student Achievement and Cost Effectiveness" MDR 2010).

8. Almost all centrally-funded services for Partnership Kura have been cashed up. In the case of the managed network, a cashed-up model would give Partnership Kura funding now to purchase services on the open market. However, the contract with Network for Learning Ltd is designed to provide schools with equitable and affordable services that may not be readily available on the open market.
- [REDACTED]

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

9. To allow Partnership Kura to benefit from the economies of scale provided by the contract, we propose that access to the managed network is initially provided centrally to Partnership Kura through Network for Learning Ltd.
- [REDACTED]

10. There is sufficient funding within the managed network budget to allow the extension of the network to the first five Partnership Kura, and to a small number of additional Partnership Kura if more are established through future application rounds.

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

11. Partnership Kura would not be eligible for the Schools Network Upgrade Project because they are new schools. Their property funding includes an allowance to set up infrastructure such as fibre drops and internal cabling to the required standards.

Next steps

12. If you agree to the recommendations in this report, we will include Partnership Kura in the contract with Network for Learning Ltd to enable them to access the managed network.