



## **BRIEFING NOTE: Cabinet Paper – Partnership Schools |Kura Hourua - Policy decisions for Round Five**

<b>Date:</b>	5/12/2016	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1039468
<b>To:</b>	Hon Hekia Parata, Minister of Education		
<b>Copy to:</b>	David Seymour MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Education		
<b>Approved by:</b>	Pauline Cleaver, Acting Deputy Secretary, Early Learning and Student Achievement	<b>DDI:</b>	04 463 8001 / 0272296982

### **Purpose**

1. This briefing note provides material to assist your discussion of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Cabinet paper at Cabinet Social Policy Committee on 7 December.

### **Proposal**

2. I am asking the Committee to:
  - **agree** that for round five, the focus of Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua (PSKH) be on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) applications
  - **agree** that, for rounds four and five, the Principal's Salary component of Partnership Schools set up funding be increased to one year for primary schools and up to five terms or quarters for secondary schools.
3. Note, I also intend to extend the Guaranteed Minimum roll (GMR) to provide more funding certainty in the critical first year of operation.
4. These proposals have been developed together with the Under-Secretary, Mr David Seymour.

### **Introduction**

5. The PSKH model extends our menu of options for parents and students by offering greater freedom and flexibility to achieve quality education outcomes. PSKH, in turn, are held accountable by contracts for outcomes.
6. The Under-Secretary and I propose that application Round 5 for PSKH focus on STEM applications. If there are no viable and effective applications for STEM Partnership schools, or others of interest, all selected PSKH will continue the current focus on priority learners.

7. As rounds four and five will also have longer set-up times than the PSKH opened to date, I also propose that the principal's salary component of the set-up funding for PSKH be extended to be comparable to the set-up funding that state/mainstream schools receive.

#### **Priority for Round 5: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**

8. International indicators show that New Zealand students' performance in science and mathematics has room for improvement.
9. The previous cycles of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed decreases in achievement among New Zealand students across most subjects and year levels. The 2015 TIMSS results show that this downward trend in science and maths has stabilised, and students' achievement has generally held steady.
10. The most positive change for New Zealand students was in science achievement. There has been a significant increase in the Year 5 achievement score since 2010.
11. There has been little change in our maths scores. There has been an increase for Year 5, but these changes were not significant. New Zealand's position relative to other countries has also stayed stable.
12. We therefore propose that STEM be the focus for PSKH Round 5. Rounds 1-4 have focussed on a student cohort (those that the system has not served well), establishing 8 PSKH with a further two opening in 2017, for a total of 10. However, the Education Act 1989 does not restrict PSKH to any particular educational focus or type of learner, and we consider that further rounds should increase choice for parents. We propose to make the greatest use of the flexibilities of the model by providing for different priorities in different rounds, with round 5 being focussed on STEM.
13. Selection of STEM-focussed PSKH would require applications that the Partnership School Authorisation Board considers viable and effective. If there are no such applications, or indeed others of interest, the model would continue with its current focus.

#### **Changes to Principal's Salary Component of Establishment Funding and GMR**

14. We propose amending establishment funding from the current six months of a principal's salary to up to one year for a primary school, and up to five terms/quarters for a secondary school, depending on when they open. This will better align with the longer expected establishment timeframes for Rounds 4-5. It will also make the principal's component more comparable to that of a mainstream school.
15. I also intend to increase the Guaranteed Minimum Roll (GMR) in new contracts from one term/quarter to 12 months to provide funding certainty in the critical first year of operation.
16. GMR was originally available for three years; it was then reduced to one quarter for rounds three and four. Now it will be one year. This is still a significant reduction from the original three years. The one year GMR would be applied by contract variation to the two new round three schools opening in 2017.

## Proposed timeline for Round Five

17. The timeline below sets out the current timeline for Round Five.

<b>12 December 2016</b>	Cabinet approves policy changes ahead of Round 5; agreement in principle to commence Round 5, public announcement shortly thereafter
<b>17 January 2017</b>	Education Report on implementing Cabinet's policy decisions ahead of Round Five
<b>7 February 2017</b>	Preparation of Expression of Interest (EOI) documents and sign off prior to launch <b>(1 wk)</b>
<b>13 February to 3 March 2017</b>	EOI in market <b>(3 wks)</b>
<b>6 to 24 March 2017</b>	Evaluation of EOI <b>(3 wks)</b>
<b>27 March 2017</b>	Final assessment of EOIs
<b>10 April – 5 May 2017</b>	Request for Application in Market <b>(4 wks)</b>
<b>5 May to 28 June 2017</b>	Evaluation of RFA including presentation and site visits (nearly 8 wks)
<b>30 June 2017</b>	Provide to U-S Office: Draft Cabinet Paper on: - to draw down funding - note intentions to negotiate with preferred applicants (schools opening in 2019 only) (Timing: Lodge with Cab Off 20 Jul; SOC on 26 Jul; CAB on 31 Jul)
<b>Early August - Late September 2017</b>	Contract Negotiations commence <b>(proposed deadline of 29 Sept)</b>
<b>Early October 2017</b>	Education Report: Execute agreements