

File Note: Meeting between Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Board and Minister of Education and Minister for Māori Development.

24 February 2015.

In attendance:

For Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust

Wharehuia Milroy, Trustee; Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, Trustee; Tina Olsen-Ratana, co-chair; Druis Barrett, Trustee; Angus Hartley, Acting Chief Executive.

For the Crown

Hon Hekia Parata, Minister of Education; Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, Minister for Māori Development.

Peter Hughes, Secretary for Education; Rawiri Brell, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education; Karl Le Quesne, Group Manager, Ministry of Education; [REDACTED] Minister of Education's office. [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iii) OIA

Office of Hon Parata: [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iii) OIA

Office of Hon Flavell: [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iii) OIA

Record of Discussion and Agreement

- Welcome and Introductions.

Purpose of the meeting

- The Minister of Education acknowledged the Trust Board's request to meet to discuss the review of governance and progress on the WAI 2336 claim.

Review of Governance

- Dame Iritana noted the Board started a review of governance in 2007 and that the Board was considering different governance models and the costs.
- The funding to the Trust through the Master Agreement with the Ministry of Education was important to changes to Trust governance and management.
- Ms Olsen-Ratana noted that the Board agreed with the working group report Ngā Tuarā Whānui, was costing the various options and intended to consult kōhanga whānau after Matatini and by 1 April 2015.

- Consultation would focus on the size of any new Board, how members of the Board would be selected, and how the costs of any new governance arrangements would be met, including asking kōhanga reo to contribute.
- Ms Olsen-Ratana also noted that the Trust had outlined possible governance structures in the WAI 2336 claim and that was discussed in the work under Sir Michael Cullen, with a focus on reviewing governance to support any agreement reached by the Crown and the Trust in response to the claim.
- Ms Olsen-Ratana asked that the progress report from Sir Michael Cullen on the joint work following the WAI2336 Tribunal report be released to kōhanga whānau alongside consultation on governance changes.
- Druis Barrett advised that one of the reasons for delay with the governance review was because the Working Party report was only provided to whānau the day before the 11 December hui. This did not allow sufficient time for the report to be canvassed fully at the hui.
- The Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata:
 - acknowledged the progress made by the Board
 - acknowledged that the Board may have to make trade-offs in Board representation, size and cost.
 - noted that restoring confidence in governance was important to going forward on the claim.
 - highlighted the need for more transparency, representativeness and accountability in governance.
 - noted that Government had guidance on governance for Māori organisation that could inform the Board's review.
 - expressed concern that the Trust had not completed its reporting requirements against the Master Agreement that expired on 31 December 2014 so that the Ministry could make payments owed to the Trust.
 - noted that the Ministry could negotiate a new short term Master Agreement to cover the period to 30 June 2015 to help the Trust could complete its review and continue to support kōhanga reo.
 - undertook to consider releasing Sir Michael Cullen's progress report and respond in writing to the Trust Board.
- Angus Hartley expressed surprise that not all milestone reports had been provided.
- The Board and Ministers agreed that the Trust and Ministry would work to quickly complete milestone reporting and payment of invoices so a new short term Master Agreement could be negotiated.

WAI 2336

- Ms Olsen-Ratana said the operational issues identified in the reviews had been addressed.

- Hon Parata said resuming the work started under Sir Michael Cullen would be possible once new governance was in place that was more transparent, representative, accountable and auditable.
- Ms Olsen-Ratana noted that the working group report recommended that current Board members remain to conclude the claim.
- Hon said that the public and kōhanga whānau wanted to know that related governance matters had been addressed.
- Ms Olsen-Ratana noted that the working group report recommended that current Board members remain to conclude the claim.
- Hon Parata said it would be a decision for a new Board to select who would represent them in work on the claim.
- Following this discussion, Hon Parata shared a series of A3s on Māori education – these showed the progress that had been made recently but also what some of the gaps are; that Hon Parata said needed to be addressed by the various different parts of the sector.

Next Steps

- The Board and Ministers agreed:
 - The Trust and Ministry will work to have all milestone reports completed and final invoices submitted so they can be paid.
 - The Trust and the Ministry will commence negotiations, seeking agreement on a temporary Master Agreement (until 30 June 2015) so support to kōhanga reo can continue while the Trust's governance review is completed.
 - Hon Parata instructed her Office to share with the Board a copy of the Minister's proposed press statement which she planned to release the day following the meeting.
 - The Minister of Education would write to the Board on whether or not the progress report from Sir Michael Cullen could be released.