



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

25 FEB 2015

Tākuta Timoti Kāretu and Tina Olsen-Ratana
Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Board
PO Box 38741
WELLINGTON 5045

Tēnā kōrua, otira, koutou katoa

Thank you for the meeting last evening. Both Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, Minister for Māori Development, and I were pleased to receive your update of where matters are at.

I want to confirm the direction of travel based on the range of issues we traversed and reached agreement on at our meeting.

First, you undertook to complete the full milestone reporting so that we can ensure you receive the payments due. It is of some concern that the incomplete milestone reports was unknown to you.

Second, given that you were aware the Master Agreement expired on 31 December 2014, a new short term Agreement to 30 June 2015 is proposed to ensure that you can continue to support kōhanga reo. We should progress this quickly.

Third, you advised that the process of establishing new governance arrangements, that reflect the characteristics of representation, transparency, accountability and auditability set out in my previous communications to you, are well advanced. Your final consultation on this matter is to occur through March and you expect to have a new governance model shortly thereafter.

Fourth, you sought an indication of when the negotiation process to settle WAI 2336 could be resumed, and on what basis. You indicated that your member kōhanga have made it clear that this is their top priority. Additionally, you advised that their expressed preference was for the existing Board membership to continue to represent their interests in this negotiation process once resumed. And, in this context, you asked whether Sir Michael Cullen's progress report to me of December 2013 could be distributed to kōhanga in your March consultation.

It is my view that negotiations can resume once the new governance arrangements are in place. On your current timeline I think it would be possible to have new governance arrangements in place by 1 July 2015, or earlier if you can expedite the process. In this regard I would like you to confirm what your timeline will be at the earliest opportunity.

Once established, the new governance entity would be free to appoint their negotiation team to represent the interests of kōhanga.

I have considered your request to make the Cullen Report available. The Cullen Report was a progress report to me. It is not Government policy and no decisions have been made on the direction it proposed. In these circumstances, it is not possible to release it at the present stage in the process. Moreover, the resumption of discussions should start with a review of that work. I am therefore declining to make the Cullen Report publicly available.

I consider that our discussions were helpful in advancing our work and I propose to release the attached press release.

I look forward to further updates as your process unfolds, and I wish you well in its execution.

Heoi anō rā



Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

cc Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, Minister for Māori Development