



Briefing Note: Meeting Network for Learning (N4L)

To:	Hon Minister Davis - Associate Minister of Education		
cc	Hon Minister Hipkins – Minister of Education		
Date:	13 April 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1256782
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to provide background for your meeting with the Board Chair and CEO, Larrie Moore of Network for Learning (N4L) on Wednesday 14th April.

Summary

- N4L provides services to 99.9% of state and state integrated schools and has a proven track record of delivering technology projects to schools. Schools consistently give high satisfaction ratings for the service provided by N4L.
- N4L receives a significant majority of its funding through contracts for services with the Ministry.

9(2)(f)(iv)

- As a Crown owned company, N4L collects large amounts of data on the web browsing history of students across New Zealand. Mindful of the privacy of the individuals, this data can provide useful insights across the Education sector and can be used by schools to support the welfare of their students.

Proactive Release

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree ~~Disagree~~



Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service

13/04/2021



Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education

14, 4, 2021

Background

1. The Network for Learning (N4L) is a Crown-owned company established in 2012 to provide state and state integrated schools with affordable internet services through a safe and secure, Managed Network.
2. In November 2021, N4L was recognised for its entrepreneurship and technical excellence at the Reseller News' 2020 Innovation Awards. In November 2018, N4L won the Best Specialist Broadband Provider and was voted the Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ) New Zealand's Broadband Provider of the Year. Commenting on the win, the judges said "the Network for Learning stood out as being an exceptional offering servicing a vital need, driving real value for educational institutions and their surrounding communities."
3. The Treasury regularly reviews the performance of Crown Companies and Entities. In the report for the year ending 30 June 2020, N4L was assessed in the top performance category for all of the four measured dimensions of strategic alignment, leadership, organisation and results.¹

Coverage

- Around 2,445 schools
- Approx. 99.9% of state schools

Satisfaction

- 95% of N4L service desk users are satisfied or very satisfied

N4L Services

4. N4L offers a free, secure, and filtered internet connection to all state, state-integrated and partnership schools in New Zealand. The Ministry contracts N4L to provide this service at a cost of approx 9(2)(b)(ii)
5. Funding of approximately \$49m for the Ministry to support ICT in schools was announced on 10 August 2020 as part of the Budget 20 COVID Relief Fund. This funding is being used to extend support into schools through the Te Mana Tūhono programme.
6. This funding will also allow for the replacement of network hardware in all schools who choose to participate and N4L has been contracted to provide the project management services for this work.
7. The Budget 20 funding will also provide an enhanced cyber security service and improved facilities to support NCEA online. The Ministry has contracted N4L to deliver these services until 30 June 2021 and work is underway to finalise a longer-term agreement.

Digital Equity

8. 9(2)(f)(iv)
9. 9(2)(f)(iv)

¹ Crown Companies and Entities: Performance Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

10.

9(2)(f)(iv)

11.

Data and Insights

12. In December 2020, N4L provided a Data & Insights Report.
13. N4L collects and stores significant amounts of data on student internet browsing history. Within the bounds of privacy regulation, this data could provide useful insights across the Education sector, both at a summary level and at a detailed level for use by schools.
14. The Ministry is working with N4L on how this information may be presented to schools to help support the welfare of students while not breaching the privacy of an individual.