



Education Report: Proposal to combine Hutt Valley Activity Centre and Alternative Education Provision in 2022

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	1 April 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1284748
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to consider a proposal from the Principals of the host and contributing schools of Hutt Valley Activity Centre to a three term trial which would combine the Alternative Education provision in Hutt Valley and the Hutt Valley Activity Centre.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- note** a proposal from Principals in Hutt Valley for a three-term trial combining the Alternative Education and Activity Centre provision, commencing term 2 2022
- agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree Disagree



Dr David Wales

Poutohu Matua | Te Hāpai Ō Rāngai
National Director Learning Support Delivery

01 /04 /2022



Hon Jan Tinetti

Associate Minister of Education

10/04/2022

Background

Activity Centres

1. Activity Centres provide educational and pastoral support to secondary students in Years 9 to 13. There are 13 centres across the country, each with a notional roll of 20 students. Centres are operated by a managing school that employs two registered teachers to provide a specialised learning programme for students who are at-risk of disengaging from schooling and/or at-risk of low educational, social or vocational outcomes.
2. Managing schools have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and receive resourcing to manage the Activity Centre. A requirement of the Memorandum of Understanding is that the managing school report to the Ministry on outcomes and student achievement to ensure accountability for public funds. Property for Activity Centres is funded by the Ministry.
3. Naenae College is the fund holder and host school for the Hutt Valley Activity Centre and Alternative Education provision in Hutt Valley.

Alternative Education

4. Alternative Education provides educational and pastoral support for students between 13 and 15 years of age who have disengaged from mainstream schooling. Students can remain enrolled in Alternative Education until the end of the year in which they turn 16. The student's enrolling school must keep the student on their roll while they are attending Alternative Education. Each student is supported by an Individual Learning Plan and they are able to be dual enrolled at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – The Correspondence School and access up to four subjects.
5. Managing schools are contracted by the Ministry, with the Ministry's consent, they may subcontract a third party to deliver the Alternative Education. The funding is used to employ staff and provide education including addressing social and emotional wellbeing. The funding is not adequate to employ registered teachers. Naenae College holds the contract for Alternative Education provision in Hutt Valley. They subcontract the community organisation Lyriks to provide the service to 25 ākonga.
6. All contracts for Alternative Education expire in December 2022 and the Ministry is now beginning to plan the scope and process for contracting in 2023.

Issue and proposed solution

7. Key staff at Hutt Valley Activity Centre have departed and there has been an ongoing short tenure of directors since 2015.
8. The Hutt Valley Principals met with the Ministry in December 2021 and also in February and March 2022 to discuss the issues and present a solution for their community for 2022.
9. The eight contributing schools that feed into the Hutt Valley Activity Centre wish to trial an approach which would combine the resources provided for Alternative Education with the Activity Centre. Naenae College would continue to hold the contract for Alternative Education and will also continue to manage the Activity Centre and employ the two registered teachers. The Alternative Education suite will be called Horizons.

This includes having registered teachers taking responsibility for the core curriculum needs of ākonga in both the Alternative Education and Activity Centre. The service would be for at-risk students in Hutt Valley in Years 9 to 13 and could accommodate 45 ākonga at any one time.

10. Teaching and learning for ākonga entering under either pathway would happen at the Hutt Valley Activity Centre, which is located on 28 Graham Street, Petone, Lower Hutt (not on a school site). All social and emotional learning will happen at the Activity Centre also.
11. The programme will include a four-tier learning approach.
 - Targeted Year 9 return to school programme
 - Year 10 remedial teaching for future NCEA
 - Forty credits Year 11 NCEA programme
 - Transition programme for Year 11-13
12. A specific transition tutor role will be established to work with ākonga, whānau, schools and outside providers.
13. Staffing will include a director, junior programme teacher, senior programme teacher, transitional tutor and three programme tutors.
14. The contract and Memorandum of Understanding with schools for the delivery of Alternative Education and Activity Centres are sufficiently flexible to enable this change to the delivery model, and Naenae College would continue to be required to meet their obligations in terms of reporting.

Risks and Benefits

15. The benefits of this trial would be:
 - Ākonga in Alternative Education will be able to learn in a safe and positive physical environment at the Hutt Valley Activity Centre and will benefit from having registered teachers to facilitate core curriculum subjects.
 - Activity Centre ākonga will benefit from having their social and emotional needs met from the expertise that Lyriks offer. They will also benefit from a supported transition back to their mainstream schools.
16. There is a risk that combining both Alternative Education and Activity Centre ākonga in a larger group and across a wider age group could expose some ākonga to inappropriate behaviour. The schools and the provider are aware of and will seek to minimise this risk. To mitigate this risk the programme identifies individual junior and senior programmes that separate younger ākonga from their older peers.
17. The proposal fits with the key actions of priority six of the Learning Support Action Plan, to improve education for children and young people at risk of disengaging from education. The proposal has been designed by educators, is an adapted and flexible system of at-risk provision for the Hutt Valley community that will better meet individual needs and is integrated with schools.

18. The trial will provide an opportunity to test a new model and enable us to understand what works and what issues may need to be worked through, in developing broader changes to the operating model for intensive provision.
19. This three-term trial is inclusive of the Ka Hikitia strategy including education provision that responds to learners within the context of their whānau and the community in which they live. This three-term trial is inclusive of the Pacific Education plan including providing a safe, environment where Pacific ākonga feel safe and valued.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications. Funding and associated reporting requirements would remain the same.

Next Steps

21. Governance arrangements involving all the contributing schools will be agreed. We will also work with the schools to develop an evaluation plan.

Proactive Release

22. We recommend that this briefing is released in full once it has been considered by you.