



Briefing Note: Draft speaking notes and update on inclusive education engagement

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| To: | Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education | | |
| Cc: | Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education | | |
| Date: | 5 August 2021 | Priority: | Medium |
| Security Level: | In Confidence | METIS No: | 1267739 |
| Drafter: | Pamela Cohen | DDI: | s 9(2)(a) |
| Key Contact: | Dr David Wales | DDI: | |
| Messaging seen by Communications team: | Yes | Round Robin: | No |

Purpose

This Briefing Note responds to your request for speaking notes on inclusive education in the New Zealand context and updates you on our recent engagement on inclusive education.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Summary

- Following the learning support strategy session with Education Ministers on 9 June 2021, you requested speaking notes on inclusive education that can be adapted for different audiences.
- We are seeking your feedback on the attached draft speaking notes (Annex 1).
- We are continuing to engage with the Commissioners for Children and Disability Rights and IHC on inclusive education. We have recently shared the attached draft A3s with them (Annex 2) on the core features of inclusive education mapped against education agencies' current work programmes, ahead of a meeting on 9 August 2021.



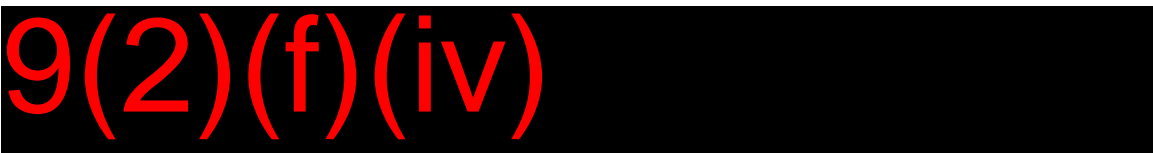
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Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

05/08/2021

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Draft speaking notes on inclusive education

1. Inclusive education is one of your priorities and is included in the work programme we provided you on 1 April 2021 [METIS 1255059].
2. A black rectangular box with the text "9(2)(f)(iv)" written in red, indicating a redacted section of the document.
3. Following the strategy session, you requested speaking notes on inclusive education that can be used as the basis for your speeches.
4. Draft speaking notes are attached (Annex 1). These reflect input from your office on earlier drafts. We envisage that the speaking notes will be used as a framework that can be adapted for specific audiences and updated as time goes on.

Update on engagement on inclusive education

5. On 2 July, the Secretary for Education Iona Holsted updated the Minister of Education and you on the Ministry's engagement with the Commissioners for Children and Disability Rights and IHC on inclusive education [METIS 1265028]. This followed a meeting on 28 June 2021 where the Secretary for Education, Chief Review Officer, and Chief Executive of the Teaching Council met with the Commissioners and Trish Grant, Director of Advocacy at IHC.
6. At that meeting it was agreed that instead of spending time developing a vision for inclusive education in New Zealand, we should focus on the descriptions provided in the General Comment on Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (UNCRPD), and how to meaningfully articulate this for the Aotearoa New Zealand context.
7. The attached draft A3s (Annex 2) identify where the Ministry's current work programme, and the work of other education agencies, aligns with the core features of inclusive education identified in the General Comment on Article 24 of the UNCRPD. This is a first step towards identifying where further work is needed to ensure a genuinely inclusive education system and developing a plan to progressively realise such a system.
8. These draft A3s are intended as a working document to support our ongoing discussions with the Commissioners for Children and Disability Rights and IHC. Our next meeting with them is scheduled for 9 August 2021.

Next Steps

9. We are seeking your feedback on the draft speaking notes.
10. We will keep you informed about our ongoing engagement on inclusive education.

Proactive Release

11. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Speaking notes: Our journey to include all our ākonga in education (draft)
- Annex 2: Current actions and commitments towards inclusion for disabled learners (draft)

Annex 2: Current actions and commitments towards inclusion for disabled learners

Proactively Released