



Briefing Note: What we know about Māori medium in early learning (kōhanga reo and Māori-medium early childhood education)

To:	Hon. Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
CC:	Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon. Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	31 August 2021	Priority:	Low
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report discusses changes to key aspects of Māori-medium early learning between 2014 and 2020. It highlights changes in attendance by service type and changes in the number of services across the regions. It also provides insights about the workforce during this period. The report provides a baseline for measuring some aspects of the strategies Maihi Māori, Maihi Karauna and Tau Mai Te Reo.

Recommendations

1. **Note** the attached report and infographic about Māori-medium in early learning, entitled "What we know about Māori medium in early learning".
2. **Note** that we propose to release this report on Education Counts on 09 September 2021 and will liaise with your office about the communications.
3. **Agree** to proactively release this Briefing Note.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**

Summary

- The main insights about the Māori medium early learning trends between 2014 and 2020 are:
 - a. Attendances at Māori-medium early learning have been stable at around 10,000 attendances.
 - b. Attendance at kōhanga reo has decreased by 7 percent, but kōhanga reo remain the main provider of immersion education in te reo Māori within early learning.
 - c. The number of Māori-medium early learning services has increased (3.3 percent), particularly in the Northland region which has eight more services.
 - d. The number of people training to become Māori-medium early learning teachers and kaiako has decreased over this period (to a total of 275 enrolments in 2020).
- These insights are feeding into the Ministry's work on ways to strengthen and grow Māori medium pathways and transitions from early childhood education to tertiary: Te Tira Hou | Māori Medium Education Network information (Te Tira Hou) [METIS No: 1259078]. Te Tira Hou provides big picture, national, regional and long term information on the robustness of our Māori medium pathways.
- We provided a draft copy of the Māori medium in early learning report to the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust and met with them to discuss their comments which we have taken into account in the final report.
- We have prepared key questions and answers for the release (attached as Annex 3).
- We propose to release the report and infographic on Education Counts on 09 September 2021 and will liaise with your office on the communications. The full report and infographic are attached in Annexes 1 and 2.



Alexander Brunt
Tumu Te Puna Mohiotanga
Te Puna Mohiotanga

31/ 08/ 2021



Hon. Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education

10/10/2021

Background

1. This report uses the 2020 ECE census data (BN-METIS no: 1243217) and focuses on Māori-medium early learning. The ECE Census is currently the only Ministry of Education administrative collection that includes kōhanga reo.
2. The annual ECE census is a data snapshot from New Zealand early learning services across one week per year, typically the last week in June, though some information is also drawn from other data sources the Ministry maintains and Stats NZ data.
3. In this report the term “early learning services” includes kōhanga reo, education & care services, kindergartens, home-based services, and Playcentres. Within the report the data is split between kōhanga reo and other Māori-medium services. Māori-medium services other than kōhanga reo are referred to as Māori-medium early childhood education (ECE).

Key findings

4. Overall, attendance in Māori-medium early learning has remained stable between 2014 and 2020, but there has been some change between service types during this period:
 - a. Attendances at kōhanga reo decreased from 8,936 to 8,334 (a 7 percent decrease) and
 - b. Attendances at Māori-medium ECE increased from 1,070 to 1,694 (a 58 percent increase).
2. Māori-medium early learning is largely attended by mokopuna Māori. Over 94 percent of attendances at kōhanga reo were by mokopuna Māori, with around 85 percent in Māori-medium ECE.
3. The proportion of all mokopuna Māori attending Māori-medium early learning has increased slightly for those aged two and older over the last seven years. The greatest increase in attendance was for mokopuna Māori aged three and four with a 0.5 percentage point increase.
4. Overall, the total number of Māori-medium early learning services has increased over the last seven years from 484 in 2014 to 500 in 2020 (a 3.3 percent increase). The Northland region experienced the greatest increase in Māori-medium early learning services, with eight more services in 2020 than in 2014. (We have not analysed the size or capacity of new services.)
5. The number of kaiako holding a Whakapakari Tino Rangatiratanga qualification working at kōhanga reo increased from 430 in 2015 to 496 in 2020, and the number of kaiāwhina holding a Te Ara Tuarua qualification increased from 158 to 216.¹ Over the same period, unqualified staff decreased from 2,422 to 1,943.
6. In Māori-medium ECE services, the percentage of qualified teachers increased from 61 percent in 2014 to 66 percent in 2020.
7. Enrolments for kaiako training with Kōhanga Reo National Trust decreased from 420 in 2014 to 260 in 2020 (a 32 percent decrease). Enrolments in initial Māori-medium teacher courses also decreased, from 20 in 2016 to 15 in 2020 (a 25 percent decrease, but the numbers are small).

¹ Kaiako are those who have completed the Whakapakari Tino Rangatiratanga qualification (NZQA level 7) through the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust and Kaiāwhina are those who have completed the Te Ara Tuarua (NZQA level 5) or Te Ara Tuatahi (NZQA level 2) qualification through Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.

Next Steps

3. This report will be shared with the Ministry's Early Learning Data and Evidence Advisory Group, a subcommittee of the Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee, just prior to release. At the same time a copy will be sent to Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.

Proactive Release

4. 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 one: What we know about Māori medium in early learning

Annex two: Māori medium in early learning infographic

Annex three: Communications: key questions and answers