

Joint Briefing: Follow up on Briefing note on work to respond to ERO Evaluation of learning in residential care

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| To: | Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Children and Associate Minister of Education | | |
| | Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education | | |
| Cc: | Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education | | |
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| Messaging seen by Communications team: | No | Round Robin: | No |

Purpose of Report

In August 2021 the Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki provided you with advice on next steps following the Education Review Office (ERO) evaluation of learning in residential care (METIS 1263307 refers). Joint briefings were provided to update you on our progress in April 2022 (METIS 1284790 refers), and June 2022 (METIS 1287597 refers). This report notes that all work is on track and provides an update on the progress made since the June 2022 briefing.

Proactive Release

Agree that the Ministry of Education, the Education Review Office and Oranga Tamariki release this briefing in full.

Agree

Disagree



Dr David Wales
**National Director,
Learning Support Delivery**

Ministry of Education
18/8/2022



Ben Hannifin
**Acting Transitional
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Oranga Tamariki
18/8/2022



Ruth Shinoda
Deputy Chief Executive

Education Review Office
18/8/2022



Hon Kelvin Davis
**Minister for Children
Associate Minister of Education**
Date: 29/08/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

Date: 27/08/2022

Background

1. In July 2021 the ERO published its evaluation of learning in residential care- *They knew I wanted to learn* – which evaluated education provision in the eight care and protection and youth justice residences and how the system supports them. There are currently three education providers for these residences in Aotearoa New Zealand: Central Regional Health School and Kingslea School are specialist schools governed by Boards of Trustees, and Barnardos, a non-government organisation private provider.
2. At the time of the report, there were an estimated 700 to 800 children and young people in residential care every year, ranging in age from nine to 18 years old. Two-thirds of these children and young people are Māori, and the majority are male (87% male in youth justice, and 49% male in care and protection).
3. Many young people arrive at residences with entrenched disengagement and very high learning needs. Often the children and young people supported in residence behave in extreme ways resulting from a range of challenges in their lives including past trauma or attachment issues, low self-esteem, neuro-diversity disorders, and behavioural, mental health and learning difficulties.
4. The ERO made a set of recommendations which were grouped under three action areas:
 - a. Improve the quality of education in residences
 - b. Reduce variability of provision
 - c. Increase access to education after leaving residences.
5. The Ministry of Education ('the Ministry') and Oranga Tamariki prepared a joint briefing in August 2021 (METIS 1263307 refers) which set out what the two agencies would do to respond to the ERO evaluation, and an indicative joint work programme was developed.
6. Joint briefings were provided to update you on our progress in April 2022 (METIS 1284790 refers) and June 2022 (METIS 1287597 refers). All work in the joint work programme is on track.
7. Since the last joint report, the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan has been published, with this review being Action 7. In addition, the Ministry of Education's Significant Result Area (SRA) has links to this work, and an update is included below¹. The SRA initially focuses on a smaller scope of children and young people than the ERO review. The key learnings from the SRA will benefit the wider scope of children and young people in the ERO review.

Key updates since the last report

8. Annex 1 sets out an updated table of actions mapped to the ERO recommendations, and progress made since the June 2022 update.
9. Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Education have worked together to:
 - a. Develop draft service guidance to support consistent practice for all workers (residential care staff, teacher/educators, social workers, youth workers and support staff) to improve education outcomes for children and young people in care and protection and youth justice residences. These have been circulated to education providers. We have received individual feedback, and wider joint hui with education

¹ The Significant Result Area is "Following notification of a child or young person being placed in a care and protection residence or serving a sentence in a youth justice residence, local Ministry of Education staff will be engaged in transition planning for that child or young person no later than 30 days before their planned exit out of residence."

providers (Kingslea, Central Regional Health School, and Barnados) is planned for 30 August 2022, and regional hui in early September 2022.

- b. Participate in a weeklong interagency sprint (lead by the Ministry of Education), involving regional staff from both agencies and ERO. The purpose of the sprint was to agree on a process for transitioning children and young people's education in and out of residence. The sprint focused on the Significant Result Area, however the process developed will also contribute Area Three (increasing students access to education after leaving residence) in the ERO review. This process is now ready for consultation with Oranga Tamariki and Education staff working with, and in, residences.