



Briefing Note: Visit to Kauri Centre

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Date:	31 August 2022	Priority:	Low / Medium / High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1294023
Drafter:	Cameron Frethey, Paul Mitchell, Sandra Ford, Renee Chapman	DDI:	Cameron Frethey: 07 858 7307
Key Contact:	Paul Mitchell	DDI:	07 837 3110
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes / No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Briefing Note

- This briefing note provides information to support your visit to the Kauri Centre in Hamilton on Friday 2 September 2022, 11.00am – 12.00pm. The visit is to celebrate and share the work being undertaken to prepare disengaged students for returning to mainstream education or further training.

Core Kauri Centre Information

Kauri Centre (5758)

Contact Name: Barbara Nelson
(At institution) 9(2)(a)

Address: 342 Cambridge Road
Hillcrest
Hamilton

Key People

Principal: Kelvin Whiting – Hillcrest High School
9(2)(a)

Ministry Officials: Paul Mitchell, Manager Learning Support, Waikato – 07 837 3110
Marcus Freke, Director of Education, Waikato – 07 850 8896
Cameron Frethey, Lead Advisor, Waikato – 07 858 7307

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Secondary (Year 9-12)
School Gender	Boys
Education Medium	Alternative Education
Equity Index Rating	Not applicable
Electorate	Hamilton East
Te Mahau Region	Te Tai Whenua Waikato

The July 2022 breakdown of roll information by ethnicity is shown below:

[Month/Year] Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	2	28.57%
Pacific		
Asian		
Other ethnicity		
European/Pākehā	5	71.43%
International		
Total	7	100%

School Context

- 1 The Kauri Centre provides an educational pathway for young people primarily in the care of Oranga Tamariki (OT), who are facing barriers and challenges regarding their schooling placement which place them at risk of becoming disengaged from education.
- 2 The Kauri Centre is designated as an off-site Alternative Education (AE) facility, which is largely funded by OT. AE supports students who have been disengaged from schooling and education.
- 3 Te Mahau also provides AE funding to the Centre. The Kauri Centre is currently allocated 20 AE spaces which equates to \$235,847.00 per year. As a regional office and linked to the national Attendance and Engagement strategy, we are currently re-contracting regional AE provision for 2023 onwards.
- 4 The Kauri Centre's staffing is predominantly funded by the provision of AE places from the Ministry. Hillcrest High School is responsible for the employment and performance management of Kauri Centre staff.
- 5 Under Te Mahau current AE funding agreement, Hillcrest High School is the managing school. The Kauri Centre's goal is to support students in their attendance, participation,

wellbeing, progress and achievement, and successfully transition them back to school or another education, training or employment pathway.

- 6 Property, transport, and ancillary staff funding is provided by OT. A management committee consisting of representatives of the school, Te Mahau and OT provide governance. The school has requested additional staffing funding be provided by Te Mahau to allow for permanent teaching positions to be established at the Kauri Centre. The regional office is working with the Provider Services, Learning Support team at National Office to consider what options are available as this is not possible using existing funding mechanisms.
- 7 In November 2021, Hillcrest High School were contacted about placing an expression of interest into Wraparound Transition Funding for the Kauri Centre. In March 2022, \$10,415.00 was approved to support transition course equipment, transport costs and teacher aide transition support.
- 8 Engaging and supporting students may include additional supports for eyesight and hearing, specialist subject areas, testing to determine the right level of learning for their ability and areas of development and functioning.
- 9 Given the low student numbers, staff can work closely with external agencies ICAMHS, DSL, Safe and Learning Support staff (Hearing Advisors, Speech Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, etc.) and whānau to co-construct an individual learning plan tailored to the student. Once these plans are implemented, success (emotional, behavioural, social, cultural, physical, psychological and academic) begins to occur frequently.
- 10 Te Mahau Learning Support team delivers professional learning and development.
- 11 Learning Support also contributes \$30,000.00 per year for support of up to 3 junior students.

Education Review Office

- 12 The Kauri Centre was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2018. ERO found that relational trust and effective collaboration across the school community contribute to an environment conducive to providing effective achievement of equity and excellence, and acceleration of learning, and ERO is due to return in three years (COVID-19 created delays).
- 13 The school showed that the students in the Kauri Centre facility all have made significant sustained progress towards their learning development and achievement goals with an emphasis on the key competencies, social interaction, and oral language. Most have exceeded their personal goals. (See section 1.2 Hillcrest ERO report) <https://ero.govt.nz/institution/138/hillcrest-high-school>

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

- 14 The school belongs to Hillcrest Kāhui Ako.
- 15 The Kāhui Ako has connected with its local iwi, Ngāti Hauā, to focus on common goals for Māori students, and several member schools are also part of the Waikato Māori

achievement collective (Waimac), which focus on raising Māori student achievement, participation and engagement.

Participation in government programmes

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 16 The school and the Kauri Centre are ineligible for the programme.
- 17 OT provides breakfast and lunch to the Kauri Centre students.

Impact of COVID-19

- 18 The Kauri Centre activated its on-line learning programme during Covid-19 lockdowns. This was supported by whānau and caregivers. To maintain relationships, connect, encourage well-being and learning expectations, the Kauri Centre staff remained in regular contact with the students during the periods of lockdowns and delivered food to whānau and caregivers.
- 19 Throughout 2022, the Kauri Centre has been affected by large numbers of staff and student sickness absenteeism. This has been stressful for both staff and students and has resulted in disruption, lack of engagement, motivation and consistency in delivering positive educational outcomes.

Property

- 20 The Kauri Centre site is owned and maintained by Oranga Tamariki.

Other known risks or issues

- 21 The school has requested additional staffing funding be provided by Te Mahau to allow for permanent teaching positions to be established at the Kauri Centre. The regional office is working with the Provider Services, Learning Support team at National Office to consider what options are available.
- 22 There has been no drop in funding provided to the Kauri Centre by Te Mahau, however, the Kauri Centre has needed to change staffing ratios. This was communicated to the Deputy Principal of Hillcrest High in December 2021, and in 2022 the Kauri Centre has made the suggested budget adjustments.
- 23 The Kauri Centre's philosophy is single sex education and only caters to males. Discussions have been held with OT on the inclusion of young women into the programme.
- 24 OT is currently reviewing the Kauri Centre and is assessing its viability, location, demand, and financial implications. The outcome of this review is due in September 2022.
- 25 Since 1 October 2019, Hillcrest High School has been contracted by the Ministry of Justice to provide education to the young people at the Hamilton Youth Justice

Remand Home in Hillcrest. The educational plan is delivered by the Kauri Centre Director.

- 26 The Kauri Centre has been funded innovatively by Te Mahau since its inception and as such operates outside of AE policy, due to the unique arrangement with OT and Hillcrest High School. As such the Kauri Centre functions as a de facto Activity Centre, whereby funding is sourced from AE funding of 20 AE placements.

Proactive Release

- 27 **Agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you and the visit has occurred.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**



Jocelyn Mikaere
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua

31/08/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
(School Operations)

04/09/2022