



## BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Nelson College on Wednesday 17 August at 1.30pm

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	12 August 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1293234
<b>Drafter:</b>	Struan McKenzie	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Simon Blatchford	<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team</b>	Yes / No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

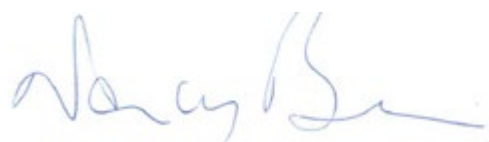
### Purpose

This briefing note provides information to support your visit to Nelson College on Wednesday 17 August.

### Proactive Release

**Agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing with any appropriate redactions once has been considered by you.

**Agree** / Disagree



Nancy Bell  
**Hautū | Deputy Secretary**  
**Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga**

12/8/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

12/08/2022

## Nelson College (294)

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Contact Name: Richard Dykes (Principal)  
9(2)(a)

Address: Waimea Road  
Nelson

### Key People

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Board chairperson: Matt Walters

Principal: Richard Dykes  
9(2)(a)

Head boy: Om Maisuria

Ministry official: Andrea Williams, Director of Education  
9(2)(a)

### COVID-19 compliance requirements for the visit

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- 1 Please wear a mask when on the school grounds. Observe a 1 metre distance where practical.

### Background information about Nelson College

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#### Issues

- 2 We have been managing two complaints, 9(2)(a) around a range of issues centring around the culture of the school led by the Board of Trustees and Principal and a similar complaint 9(2)(a). We continue to correspond with these complainants and have offered to support them presenting their complaints to the Board of Trustees.
- 3 Nelson College Principal, Richard Dykes, is chair of the Top of the South Secondary Principals Association and may raise regional issues. This may include NZQA support and slowing down of the NCEA changes.
- 4 Nelson College and Nelson College for Girls are in partnership to establish a rumaki unit at each school with additional Ministry funding to support its establishment. They have been unable to appoint a kaiako to lead its implementation and establishment
- 5 Nelson College was created in 1859 under the 'Nelson Colleges Act'. Historically they had some year 7 and year 8 aged children attend, as allowed for under this 1859 Act. Arrangements became more formal in the early 1900's - becoming a separate 'prep school' for this age group of boys. The Governors of Nelson College ran the prep school on site at this time, and this has continued to the present day.
- 6 Due to historical events since becoming one of the first state schools in New Zealand, the vast majority of the land and a large portion of the buildings at Nelson College are owned by the College. The school has traditionally maintained this property through

third party income, including from the prep school, boarding hostels and international students.

- 7 Nelson College is in serious financial difficulty with negative working capital currently in excess of \$4M. The school's \$3.5M lending facility with the Westpac Bank is due to expire in October 2022. The school is forecasting it will be insolvent by the end of 2022.
- 8 This financial situation is a result of Nelson College (prior to current Principal) obtaining loans to renovate two hostel buildings. Covid 19 seriously affected the intended revenue stream to repay these loans via international students and boarding hostels. Recent interest rate increases have exacerbated the school's abilities to operate financially and repay these loans.
- 9 The school's intention is to sell some redundant property to pay off its debts. It has applied to LINZ to correct the ownership on the titles of school owned land into the name of the Board of Trustees, to enable the sales process to progress. There should not be any impediments to selling the land, but a Treaty claim cannot be completely ruled out.
- 10 The Ministry has worked with Nelson College to find a path out of the present financial situation and to restore long term prosperity. The Ministry has commissioned an evaluation report from property consultancy firm, TPG and engaged Deloitte to build a cashflow forecasting model for the school.
- 11 9(2)(f)(iv)

## Profile Information

- 12 Nelson College is a Decile 7 secondary school located in Nelson. As of July 2022, the school had a total roll of 866 students. Their EQI number is 435.

Authority	State
School Type	Secondary (year 9-15)
School Gender	Single Sex (Boys School)
Education Medium	English-Medium
Decile	7
Electorates	Nelson / Te Tai Tonga

- 13 The July 2022 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
European/ Pākehā	567	63%
Māori	147	16%
Asian	99	11%
Pacific	44	5%

Other	23	3%
International	15	2%
Total	895	100%

### Teacher, student or school achievements

- 14 Nelson College has actively employed bilingual teacher aides to support students from diverse backgrounds. This is additional to employing a kaiahi (navigator) to support 'at risk' students.

### Education Review Office

- 15 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2016. ERO found that Nelson College is a high-performing boys' school. Boys show a strong sense of belonging and pride. They achieve very well in their learning and in sporting and cultural activities.
- 16 Teachers take many innovative approaches, providing responsive learning opportunities that engage boys well in their learning. Strong, visionary professional leadership provides a highly inclusive environment for the increasingly diverse range of students.

### Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

- 17 Nelson College belongs to Kāhui Ako ki Whakatū.
- 18 The Kāhui Ako are focused on wellbeing and achievement through the critical consciousness lens. Blended Learning through the Poutama Pounamu provider supports their mahi in the areas of relational and responsive dialogic learning. This allows for leaders and kaiako to work more effectively with whānau and their rangatahi to achieve equity, excellence and belonging.

### Visit and event information

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#### Runsheets

- 19 You will with meet Richard Dykes and Matt Walters. A car park will be reserved by the front of the school near the top steps. Richard will meet the team at the front door. Andrea Williams, Director of Education for Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast will be attending.
- 20 Runsheet

Time	Activity
1:30pm	Arrive at Nelson College – meet with Tumuaki and BOT Chair.
1:35pm	Mihi Whakatū
1:50pm	Meet with students in Dining room
2:05pm	Tour of parts of the school
2:15pm	Conversation with Tumuaki & Chair
2:30 pm	Leave Nelson College

## Participation in government programmes

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### **School Donations Scheme**

- 21 The school opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2021 and has opted in for 2022.
- 22 The school received \$165,428 in lieu of donations in 2021 and will receive \$158,183 in 2022 based on the July roll return.

### **Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme**

- 23 The School is ineligible for the programme based on the equity index or network stability.

### **Ikura | Manaakitia te whare tangata – Period products in schools initiative**

- 24 Nelson College has not opted into the initiative. The initiative is available for any state and state-integrated primary, intermediate or secondary school or kura who wishes to opt in.

### **Learning Support Coordinators**

- 25 Nelson College belongs to Kāhui Ako ki Whakatū, which has been allocated nine Learning Support Coordinators.
- 26 There are two LSCs based at the school; one full time and one connected with another school.

### **Creatives in schools**

- 27 Nelson College did not apply for round 1,2 or 3 of the Creative in Schools project.

## MOE Funding

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### **Urgent Respond Fund**

- 28 The school applied for the Urgent Response Fund. A total of \$65,883 was approved through three different applications between February to May 2021.
- 29 The funding provided support to approximately 400 learners for needs relating to attendance, engagement and behavioural concerns. It was also used to fund whanau liaison, kaitiaki and support workers to work directly with ākonga.

### **Special Reasons Fund**

- 30 Nelson College requested \$20,000 to contribute to the funding of a Kaiarahi (navigator) and a number of bilingual teacher aides to support 'at risk' students. This was approved on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **Rumaki funding**

- 31 Nelson College and Nelson College for Girls have been allocated funding to set up Māori medium provision (Te Rumaki Whakatū) at each college. There are currently

strong, well subscribed rumaki at Nelson Central school catering for years 1-6 and Nelson Intermediate for years 7-8.

- 32 Whānau at Nelson Intermediate requested a progression through into the colleges for Rangatahi. Funding of \$152, 875 has been allocated to each college over a 3-year period to fund teacher appointment, and the planning, organisation and running of the rumaki programme.
- 33 The rumaki units will operate at Level 2 te reo Māori. This is the same level of provision as is currently offered by Nelson Central School and Nelson Intermediate School, so will result in a Year 1-13 pathway at Level 2 provision. Currently both colleges are in the recruitment stage for their Te Rumaki Whakatū.

## Property

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- 34 Overall, the majority of the school property is in good condition with some buildings requiring remediation.
- 35 Nelson College has a significant number of Board owned buildings, some of which require significant investment, funds for which the Board does not have access to. These buildings support activities which are generally not required for a high school or are additional to entitlement and as such are not funded by the Ministry. These buildings are over and above the schools existing MOE funded 9TS surplus.
- 36 The school has a current 5 Year Agreement (5YA) allocation of \$1,500,000 and an annual maintenance grant of \$155,000.
- 37 The school's ongoing 5YA projects include a site-side security system upgrade, weatherproofing remediation to 3 blocks, and roofing repairs and replacements to 9 blocks. The school site is also receiving mould and drainage remediation which was funded by Unforeseen Capital.
- 38 The school has received a total of \$730,000 of Learning Support funding. This has been used towards upgrading a Learning Support Coordinator office and implementing Special Needs Modifications for access and modifications for visually impaired students.
- 39 A recent leak from the school's dining hall roof has revealed the presence of asbestos in the coating of the ceiling. As 83% of the dining hall is owned by the school, it is unlikely that the school would be able to contribute their share of funding in any repairs.
- 40 Further, the school is currently 9 teaching spaces over its property entitlement and the local property team has recommended rationalising some buildings.
- 41 The school's Principal has raised concerns that the current 5YA process will only maintain the asset condition of the school property and will not advance the assets to meet the school's vision. The principal also raised security concerns and requested fencing to limit the amount of uncontrolled entry points to the school. We'll work with the school to further understand these concerns.
- 42 As of 10 August, the school is confirmed to have placed orders for a total of 10 portable air cleaners for all three distributions under the Ministry's COVID-19 ventilation response. These orders have been dispatched. The school have also

received 10 CO2 monitors, 1 from the term 1 distribution at the start of the year and 9 from the term 3 distribution.