



**Briefing Note:** Talking points for SWC Item – ‘Report back on the Ministry of Education’s progress on RCOI Recommendation 36’ to Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	22 August 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1294117
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

- On Wednesday 24 August, the Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) is considering the Cabinet paper ‘Report back on the Ministry of Education’s progress on RCOI Recommendation 36’ [METIS 1287309].
- This briefing note provides talking points about the content in the Cabinet paper to support you during the meeting.
- Andy Jackson, Tipene Chrisp and Aisha Hancox will be available to support you at the meeting.

### Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

**Agree** ☒ **Disagree.** ☐



Anne O'Brien  
**Senior Policy Manager**

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Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

27/08/2022

## Talking Points

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### Background

- Following the devastating attack on 15 March 2019, the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain published a report containing its recommendations for action.
- The report reflected that communities across Aotearoa, in particular the Muslim communities the Commission spoke with, wanted to see greater social cohesion and closer community connections to help all people feel safe and welcome.
- The Ministry of Education is responsible for implementing Recommendation 36 of the RCOI report, which is:
  - a. 'Invest in opportunities for young New Zealanders to learn about their role, rights and responsibilities and on the value of ethnic and religious diversity, inclusivity, conflict resolution, civic literacy and self-regulation.'
- I am going to update you on the Ministry of Education's work to implement Recommendation 36 of the RCOI report and help ensure our education system is promoting social cohesion.

### Social cohesion is woven through our education settings

- The Ministry is committed to supporting inclusive education for all ākonga and contributing to the Government's work to promote social cohesion.
- As part of these commitments, social cohesion, inclusion and safety are woven through our education system settings and strategies. These concepts are informed by a focus on giving practical effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Progress on Education Initiatives responding directly to Recommendation 36

- The Ministry has progressed several initiatives that directly respond to Recommendation 36 of the RCOI report.
- The Government's initial social inclusion package funded the Community Learning Hub. These provide workshops and information to support ethnic communities' engagement with the education system.
- Budget 2022 provided \$6.411m to maintain the Community Learning Hubs, evaluate the model, and fund resources to support involvement of school staff in increasing cultural awareness and inclusion.
- The social inclusion package also funded the self-regulation pilot for early years, which aims to foster social and emotional skills in young children.
- The pilot will continue until the end June 2023. The Ministry will work with Ministers on transitioning from trialling programmes towards a systemic shift bedded down across the early learning sector.
- A Challenging Racism Toolkit for year 9 and 10 students has also been piloted in schools. This supports students to investigate the catalysts, people and events that have influenced the challenging of racism.

- We are exploring options to provide access to this toolkit once the pilot concludes.
- The Ministry has also been engaging with the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand and Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand.
- Among other things, this engagement has resulted in the collaborative release of teaching resources designed to promote unity, diversity and inclusion.

### **Curriculum work to strengthen social cohesion in Aotearoa**

- Social cohesion is also being supported through the five-year programme to refresh the New Zealand Curriculum and redesign Te Marautanga o Aotearoa in a range of ways.
- The recently released curriculum content for Aotearoa New Zealand histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā is a great example of this. This new content will support ākonga to be critical thinkers and understand our past in Aotearoa, in order to make sense of the present.
- The wider social sciences learning area for the New Zealand Curriculum is also being refreshed. This covers learning important for social cohesion, including learning about diverse religious beliefs and practices.

### **Supporting cultural capability among school leaders and the teaching workforce**

- The Ministry is also undertaking a range of work to support the cultural capability of the education workforce, including principals and teachers.
- The introduction of the Curriculum Lead Service is one example of this. The curriculum leads help teachers and kaiako make use of the refreshed national curricula, and design learning relevant to ākonga, whānau and communities.

### **Further work related to social cohesion**

- We recognise more work is needed to support social cohesion through education initiatives and system settings.
- In a meeting between Ministry officials and Kāpuia, the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Government's Response to this Inquiry, several initial priorities were identified.
- These priorities will inform the future focus of the Ministry's work on social cohesion, which involves exploring opportunities to:
  - expand and strengthen the Community Learning Hubs model;
  - articulate the role of Te Mahau in supporting schools to listen and respond to ākonga and whānau voice and foster educationally powerful connections; and
  - strengthen the role of Te Mahau in supporting schools to address and respond to racism and discrimination.
- The Ministry will continue to work with Kāpuia to ensure our education system is continuing to reflect Recommendation 36 and promote social cohesion for communities across Aotearoa.