



Briefing Note: Speech Independent Schools New Zealand conference

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	25 August 2023	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose of Paper

- This paper provides you with background information, speech notes and Q&As for the Independent Schools New Zealand (ISNZ) conference on Friday 8 September 2023.

Proactive Release

agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you, with information relating to advice on private schools' funding arrangements withheld as it is under active consideration.

Agree / Disagree


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Te Pou Kaupapahere

25/08/2023


Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

8/09/2023.

Background

1. You have been asked to open the ISNZ conference with a five to seven minutes speech and present the ISNZ Honours Awards. The conference theme is "Here for the Good", which looks at the role of independent schools and how education can contribute to strengthen society as a whole. The conference aims to challenge participants to consider how schools can do more to support the communities they serve and to actively participate to shape society for betterment of future generations.
2. The Honours Awards are presented to personnel working in ISNZ Member Schools who go above and beyond the call of duty in their respective roles. These awards are open to teachers, support staff, administrative and operational staff.

Independent Schools of New Zealand

3. ISNZ is the national body of private schools in New Zealand. Guy Pascoe is the Chief Executive of ISNZ. The group represents 54 private schools (as at July 2023) which is just over half of New Zealand's private schools, including many of the largest. ISNZ have engaged in regular meetings with the Minister and the Ministry of Education to advocate for their constituents on key issues, including government funding provided to the private school sector.
4. According to ISNZ's website they have a broad role in the education sector, including:
 - a. Representing the private school view on education committees
 - b. Advocating choice in education to Members of Parliament and government officials
 - c. Providing services for schools
 - d. Writing articles in order to influence educational thinking and policy
 - e. Organising professional development programmes
 - f. Liaising with other education groups nationally and internationally
 - g. Generally providing a forum for joint action by ISNZ Member Schools.

Funding for private schools

5. In 2022, there were 90 fully or provisionally registered private schools in New Zealand. 54 of these are members of ISNZ according to their website. There were approximately 32,000 students at independent schools in 2022.
6. The Ministry makes grants to private schools from the Private School Subsidy Funding pool. This funding is distributed between schools at a set rate per student, which differs by year level. The total funding pool is \$41.5 million (excl. GST). The funding pool is fixed so rates are annually adjusted to reflect changes in the total private school population. Distribution of the fund is based on the estimated total private school rolls across New Zealand for the year. If the total private school roll increases, the set rate per student will decrease. Private School Subsidy Funding is distributed in quarterly instalments which can be adjusted throughout the year.
7. Government funding only makes up a small portion of private school funding in most cases, and therefore is unlikely to have a great impact on budgets for most private schools. However, there are some isolated cases where private schools have low fees or do not charge and therefore the Government subsidy is a big contributor to total funding.

8. s9(2)(f)(iv)

9.

Other areas of interest for private schools

10. Private schools also receive funding for the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) and must pay the Export Education Levy (EEL) for international students. These areas may be of interest to conference attendees.

Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS)

11. Under the ORS, students with high learning needs receive a targeted mix of resources. The Ministry provides resources to private schools to support ORS Very High and High verified students. This means that private schools may have an interest in the programme of work to respond to the recommendations in the Highest Needs Review.

12. The resourcing currently provided to private schools includes:

- a. a contribution to the cost of teacher aides,
- b. a payment of a small consumable grant,
- c. specialist support,
- d. funds for specialist teacher time.

International Education

13. As at 1 August 2023, Ministry data indicates that 42 private schools have 943 international students enrolled.¹ Across state, state-integrated and private schools, there are 8,873 students enrolled. This is a marked increase over the last two years and we expect the number will continue to rise in the coming years.

14. Private schools with international students must pay the EEL. The levy is used to support a range of activities and projects relating to the export education industry, including promotion and marketing, and quality assurance. The levy is also used to fund administration of the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice, and the International Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS). The Export Education Levy is payable by any education provider that enrolls international fee-paying students. For private schools the levy is calculated as 0.5% (including GST).

¹ Snapshot data from ENROL as at 1 August 2023.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Speech notes for ISNZ conference
Annex 2: Questions and Answers

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