

Cabinet Paper material

Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Name of package Addressing COVID-19-related cost pressures within the education system
Date considered 20 December 2021
Date of release 23 March 2022

These documents have been proactively released:

Cabinet paper: Addressing COVID-19-related cost pressures within the education system

Date considered: 20 December 2021
Author: Minister of Education

Cabinet Minute: CAB-21-MIN-0548

Date considered: 20 December 2021
Author: Cabinet Office

Cabinet Minute: SWC-21-MIN-0219

Date considered: 15 December 2021
Author: Cabinet Office

1277392 Education Report: Relief teacher/backfill support for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements

7 December 2021
Ministry of Education

Material redacted

Some deletions have been made from the documents in line with withholding grounds under the Official Information Act 1982. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

The applicable withholding grounds under the Act are as follows:

Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials

Some deletions have been made from the documents as the information withheld does not fall within scope of the Minister's portfolio responsibilities, and is not relevant to the proactive release of this material.

You can read the Official Information Act 1982 here:

<http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html>



Budget Sensitive

Office of the Minister of Education

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Addressing COVID-19-related cost pressures within the education system

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to delegate authority to joint Ministers of Finance and Education to determine funding options for addressing COVID-19-related education system cost pressures.
- 2 This paper also seeks Cabinet agreement to:
 - 2.1 a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 education package to meet urgent and immediate costs required for relief teacher/backfill support (\$5 million), while further work is undertaken to assess the scope of this need
 - 2.2 9(2)(f)(iv) 
 - 2.3 re-purpose funding within existing education baselines for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust via a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$7.660 million.
- 3 9(2)(f)(iv) 

Relation to government priorities

- 4 The proposals in this paper support the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Summary

- 5 COVID-19 has had a range of significant impacts on schooling and early learning services. Government has provided targeted support since March 2020 to address particular needs, including continuing funding to support the ongoing viability of the network, supporting schools and services to retain employees, and ensuring learners have access to devices and hard packs for distance learning. This support has been well-received by the sector, and has helped to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on learners and educators.
- 6 The schooling and early learning sector is now facing a range of additional pressures, resulting from recent shifts in Alert Levels, vaccination mandates and the introduction of the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF). The Ministry of Education has identified specific cost pressures which are driven by COVID-19, and I consider that meeting these pressures is a priority to continue support for the education sector in operating under the new CPF.
- 7 In line with Government expectations, I have asked the Ministry to explore meeting these cost pressures from within baselines. This is likely possible for three cost pressures; counselling, improved ventilation, and funding continuity for early learning services. I am therefore seeking Cabinet agreement to delegate to myself and the Minister of Finance authority to repurpose existing funding to meet these costs, when a reforecast of education appropriations has been completed in January 2022.
- 8 However, baselines are unlikely to meet the remaining cost pressures, and I consider that more urgent decisions are required. I am therefore seeking Cabinet agreement for a first call on Budget 22 for two urgent cost pressures: relief teacher/backfill costs ^{9(2)(f)(iv)} [REDACTED] and to an immediate fiscally neutral transfer between appropriations to support Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.

Background

- 9 Ensuring children, students and educators can safely attend on-site education has been a key part of the Government's response to COVID-19. However, recent changes in response to COVID-19 have meant the education system is now experiencing some significant shifts, including:
- 9.1 changes to education settings to support children and students' return to face-to-face onsite education (particularly for regions severely impacted by Alert Level restrictions),
 - 9.2 the introduction of mandatory vaccination for the education workforce and testing requirements while vaccination levels increase,
 - 9.3 potential additional challenges due to the education sector's transition to the new CPF.

- 10 These COVID-19-related shifts have resulted in additional cost pressures across the education system that are significant and have considerable risks if not met. In recent months, there has been an expectation that additional costs are met from within existing education baselines.
- 11 The Ministry of Education has done this where possible. For example, the COVID-19 Support Scheme for schools [SWC-21-MIN-0092 refers] set aside a relatively modest amount of funding for additional COVID-19-related costs for schools. This has been used to support schools through the Delta lockdown both nationally and in Auckland, including repurposing for the recent re-engagement package [CBC 21-MIN-0115 refers]. This fund is now largely exhausted. In addition, the Ministry of Education has reprioritised significant funding from within baselines to support other COVID-19 response activities.
- 12 The Ministry of Education has likely exhausted all year-to-date surplus funding in responding to COVID-19. It is unlikely the total quantum of funding needed to meet new COVID-19-related cost pressures could be met completely from re-allocating education underspends.
- 13 I also understand there are constraints on accessing additional funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF). This means a combination of funding options needs to be considered for addressing any additional COVID-19-related cost pressures.

Analysis

Some cost pressures could be met through re-purposing existing education baselines in the first instance...

- 14 I propose that Cabinet delegate authority to the Ministers of Finance and Education jointly to manage additional COVID-19 cost pressures by re-allocating education underspends where possible. This re-allocation of underspends can occur following a reforecast of education appropriations in January 2022. The cost pressures that could potentially be managed using this approach include:
 - 14.1 additional counselling services in schools arising from students' return to onsite education in Alert Level 3 areas;
 - 14.2 ensuring schools have appropriately ventilated teaching spaces;
 - 14.3 ensuring funding continuity for early learning services.

However, some cost pressures require urgent funding decisions from Cabinet

- 15 In addition to the costs outlined above, there are also cost pressures that require urgent funding decisions from Cabinet, including:
 - 15.1 relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements;

15.2 9(2)(f)(iv)

15.3 funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.

- 16 I am seeking Cabinet's agreement to a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 education package to meet immediate needs for relief teacher/backfill support (initially \$5 million) 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 17 I am also seeking Cabinet's agreement to re-purpose funding within existing education baselines for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust via a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$7.660 million.
- 18 All these COVID-19 cost pressures are significant, wide-ranging and carry risks for the education system if not met. More details on the COVID-19 cost pressures outlined in paragraphs 14 and 15 are provided below.

Cost pressures that could be managed by repurposing education baselines after January 2022 reforecast – pending authority delegated to joint Ministers

Counselling services in primary schools arising from students' return to onsite education in Alert Level 3 areas

- 19 Cabinet agreed on 8 November 2021 that learners in years 0 to 8 could return to face-to face onsite learning part-time from 17 November. Cabinet also agreed that I would discuss with the Minister of Finance funding options for further counselling services and support in primary schools [CAB-21-MIN-0462 refers]. A public health risk assessment undertaken ahead of Cabinet's decision to increase access to face-to-face onsite learning in Alert Level 3 areas, emphasised the importance of supporting student mental wellbeing.
- 20 We know that learners, parents, whānau and staff are anxious about returning onsite and the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Because of these anxieties, not all learners have returned to onsite face-to-face learning.
- 21 Where possible, these learners have continued participating in their education by distance. This can have negative impacts for Māori and Pacific children, those living in disadvantaged households with inequitable access to connectivity and devices and those that have learning support needs and disabilities. Therefore, counselling services and supports are needed to ameliorate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disrupted school environment, to re-embed positive social connections with their peers and teachers, and to support academic outcomes.

22 9(2)(f)(iv)

Ensuring schools have appropriately ventilated teaching spaces

- 23 Alongside increased vaccination and other management practices, improving ventilation in schools provides additional protections for children, learners and educators. Evidence shows that air flow is important in diluting and removing exhaled air and replacing it with fresh air from outside. The evidence also indicates that recirculated (unfiltered) air can increase risk of transmission.
- 24 The Ministry is working urgently on a targeted ventilation programme to ensure learners can access face-to-face education in appropriately ventilated teaching spaces, in line with public health expectations.¹ Some of the work required as part of this ventilation programme includes:
- 24.1 procuring and managing the deployment of ventilation technologies to schools (e.g. CO₂ monitors, portable air cleaners), including deployment in response to a localised outbreak involving a school;
 - 24.2 creating self-assessment tools, guidance and processes for schools to determine ventilation issues and evidence-based solutions; and
 - 24.3 targeted research and development of low cost, high-performance ventilation solutions that can be widely deployed ahead of winter.
- 25 This is particularly important for schools in regions where there is currently COVID-19 in the community, as well as more broadly when the CPF comes into force as schools continue to operate with varying levels of COVID-19 present in the community.
- 26 In the absence of the above work programme, it is likely that schools will gravitate towards poorer quality and less cost-effective ventilation solutions, resulting in:
- 26.1 poorer COVID-19 protections for children, learners and educators;
 - 26.2 possible diversion of funding from other core purposes (e.g. day-to-day school operations, curriculum delivery);
 - 26.3 greater financial pressure on schools should they implement less cost-effective ventilation options; and
 - 26.4 higher long-term costs for the Government.
- 27 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Repurposing this funding will likely result in work being delayed and a tightening of operating budgets. Although decisions will need to be made on how to manage within the appropriation, on

¹ The Ministry is working with the Ministry of Health, NIWA and universities to ensure its approach is consistent and leverages solutions being determined for other environments.

balance I consider that the ventilation work programme requires a priority response.

Funding continuity for early learning services

- 28 The Government has provided funding continuity for ECE services since the COVID-19 resurgence by implementing various funding protections – mainly changes to the Ministry of Education’s usual ECE subsidy funding rules. These changes aim to mitigate COVID-19-related child absence and staffing constraints on services to enable them to continue providing early learning services for parents and their children over time.
- 29 The protections adopted since August 2021 have been successful and largely mirror how the Ministry supported early learning services when COVID-19 first impacted last year. The underlying principle for these funding protections is that funding rule changes should try and keep sector funding broadly within the parameters of the existing early learning baseline. This baseline is created from a demand driven forecast. The funding protections we have implemented have operated well to align with this principle.
- 30 Nonetheless, some of the changes we have applied, and some changes that are still being considered as we move to implement the CPF, are likely to have a small cost over the funding already in the forecast baseline. This cost will become more marked the longer any funding protections are maintained.
- 31 It is not yet possible to separate out the exact additional cost. The protections referred to typically have a cost that is a mix of additional funding as well as ‘protected’ funding that would have been spent if COVID-19 had not been present. An example of this is where the decision was made not to claw back funding paid in advance to services.
- 32 Ultimately, it is likely additional new funding is required as ongoing funding protections incur additional costs. However, the associated cost may be able to be managed by re-purposing funding within the overall early learning appropriations, where there are currently some areas of underspend.

Cost pressures that require urgent Cabinet funding decisions

Relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements

- 33 Some schools and early learning services are working through employment processes with staff members (teaching and non-teaching) who choose not to be vaccinated. Schools and early learning services determine the employment processes appropriate to their individual circumstances. In some cases, this can result in the termination of employment.
- 34 Depending on the relevant collective agreements across schooling and early learning, notice periods following termination can range from four weeks (e.g. Kindergarten Teachers, Head Teachers and Senior Teachers’ Collective

Agreements in early learning) to eight weeks (e.g. for teachers and principals in schooling). Education workers are expected to be paid fully during this time.

- 35 Both schools and early learning services are likely to incur additional costs, if they need to provide relief or backfill positions while the employment process is worked through and during the subsequent notice period, should employment be terminated. This would apply to both teaching and non-teaching positions (e.g., administration staff, teacher aides in schools or chefs in early learning), creating a significant duplicate cost for some schools and services.
- 36 It is recommended that financial support be provided for relief teacher/backfill costs for the following reasons:
- 36.1 The additional relief teacher/staff backfill costs for unvaccinated staff are an unforeseen cost that schools and early learning services could not have reasonably planned for. Providing support will alleviate financial pressure, both in the short- and medium-term, caused by the vaccine requirements.
- 36.2 These additional costs have a compounding effect on the schooling and early learning sectors, which are already facing increasingly complex issues due to COVID-19 (e.g. ongoing educational and wellbeing challenges for learners, staff, and the wider community).
- 36.3 Providing support will minimise the impact on curriculum delivery, particularly in schools, given the potential for staff changes (e.g. if class sizes increase due to fewer staff).
- 36.4 Parents may face difficulty engaging in the labour market if early learning services are forced to close or limit capacity because they cannot meet costs associated with having unvaccinated teachers.
- 37 The Ministry of Education has advised that funding for duplicate early learning relief teacher costs could be provided from the \$8.5 million remaining from the Early Learning Sustainability Fund and earmarked by Cabinet for early learning-related vaccination costs [CAB-21-MIN-0414 refers]. But I will require a further \$5 million in order to meet immediate pressures in the schooling sector.
- 38 This funding will enable the Ministry to provide initial relief/backfill support for schools and early learning services, while also further assessing the scope of need. Funding for this purpose needs to be confirmed as soon as possible so that it can be communicated to the sector, who have started working through employment processes with impacted staff but do not yet know if there will be support available. These duplicate costs are already being incurred in schools that have found relief staffing.
- 39 I am therefore seeking Cabinet's agreement to include this additional \$5 million as a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 education package in order to provide schools with certainty of support for these costs.

40 Further funding may be required depending on the number of staff who are unable to continue working, and the availability of the relief workforce. I will report back to Cabinet should further funding be required for this purpose.

9(2)(f)(iv)

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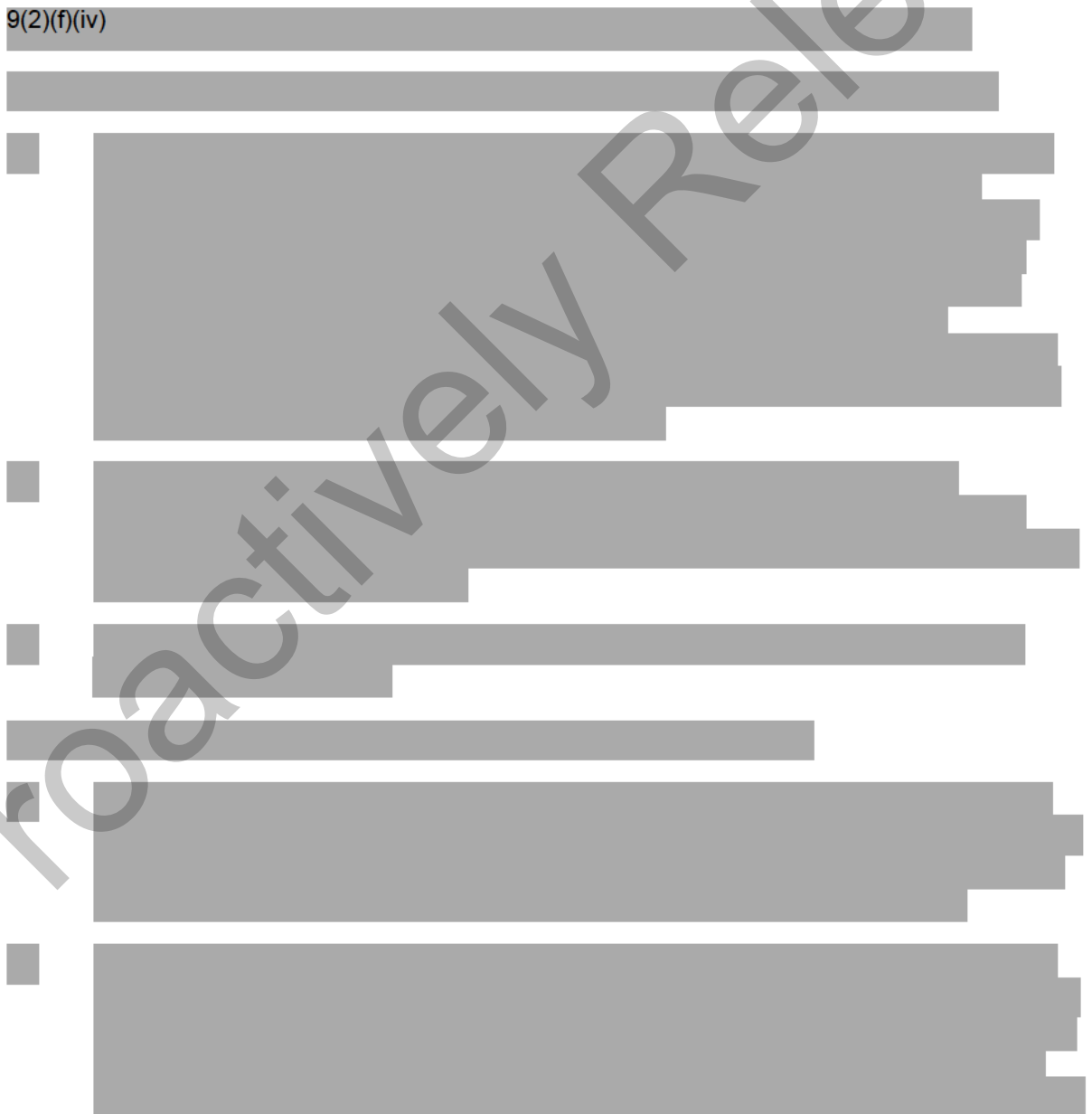
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Agreement to transfer of funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust

- 47 I also propose that Cabinet agree to a fiscally neutral transfer of \$7.660 million. This replaces funding previously tagged for kōhanga reo that should have been carried over between financial years. Replacement funding for the transfer has been sourced from underspends in the Targeted Assistance for Participation Fund and was carried forward from the 2020/21 financial year following approval by joint Ministers at the October Baseline Update in 2021.
- 48 Cabinet approval is now required to transfer this funding across appropriations. This will support Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust with the building and remediation programme it has underway and which is under some pressure because of inflation in the construction market, partly driven by the impacts of COVID-19. The transfer is a technical adjustment, which ensures levels of publicly announced funding can be maintained and provided from the correct appropriation.

9(2)(f)(iv)



9(2)(f)(iv)

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Financial Implications

58 This suite of COVID-19 cost pressures is significant and will require a combination of funding options to respond. As demonstrated, the Ministry of Education is committed to meeting these costs within existing baselines in the first instance where possible.

59 However, cost pressures relating to relief teacher/backfill support and distance education (where learners or their whānau have underlying health conditions that limit their return to education) cannot be met from within baselines. I consider these costs are urgent and should be met as a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 education package. Further funding may be required once the immediate pressures have been addressed.

60 Table 1 overleaf summarises the estimated costs for each of the COVID-19 cost pressures outlined above, as well as the preferred funding approach for each.

Table 1 – summary of COVID-19-related cost pressures

Description and recommended funding approach	Costs (\$m)
Urgent cost pressures	
Pre-commitment against Budget 2022	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements 	5.000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(f)(iv) 	9(2)(f)(iv)
Re-purposing funding within existing education baselines via fiscally neutral adjustment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust 	7.660
Non-urgent cost pressures	
Re-purposing funding within existing education baselines after January 2022 reforecast	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring schools have appropriately ventilated teaching spaces 	9(2)(f)(iv)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional counselling services in schools arising from students' return to onsite education in Alert Level 3 areas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding continuity for early learning services 	To be confirmed early 2022.
TOTAL Estimated Costs	9(2)(f)(iv)

- 61 Note, some non-urgent cost pressures cannot be costed fully at this stage. However, subject to Cabinet agreement to the recommendations in this paper, further information will be provided to joint Ministers prior to any funding decisions being finalised.

Legislative Implications

- 62 This paper has no legislative implications.

Population Implications

- 63 Addressing this suite of COVID-19 cost pressures supports children, students, schools and education workers across the country. Meeting each individual cost pressure has different impacts for communities.

- 64 Meeting cost pressures relating to relief teacher/backfill support for schools and services, counselling services in primary schools and ventilation, broadly support communities that have been or are more likely to be negatively impacted by COVID-19. This includes communities with high proportions of Māori and Pacific peoples, rural communities, and communities facing greater socio-economic barriers.

- 65 Meanwhile, some of these cost pressures/initiatives have more discrete population impacts (e.g. 9(2)(f)(iv) funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust).

Human Rights

- 66 This paper has no human rights implications.

Consultation

- 67 The Treasury and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet have been consulted on this paper.

Communications

- 68 Should the proposals outlined in this paper be agreed to by Cabinet, the Ministry of Education will confirm and communicate implementation details for any new programmes with schools as soon as is practicable.

Proactive Release

- 69 I intend to proactively release this paper subject to Cabinet agreement to the recommendations provided, once funding decisions are finalised by joint Ministers of Finance and Education and initiatives have been publicly announced.

Recommendations

The Minister for Education recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that recent changes in response to COVID-19 have meant the education system is now experiencing some significant shifts including the return to on-site education in Alert Level 3 areas, mandatory vaccination requirements and the shift to implement the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF);
- 2 **note** that the shifts outlined in recommendation 1 have resulted in additional cost pressures across the education system including:
 - 2.1 additional counselling services in primary schools arising from students' return to onsite education in Alert Level 3 areas;
 - 2.2 ensuring schools have appropriately ventilated teaching spaces;
 - 2.3 ensuring funding continuity for early learning services;
 - 2.4 relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements;
 - 2.5 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] and
 - 2.6 funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.
- 3 **note** that some of these cost pressures could be met through re-purposing existing education baselines in the first instance, while other cost pressures require urgent funding decisions from Cabinet;

- 4 **authorise** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education jointly to finalise re-purposing existing education baselines for the non-urgent cost pressures outlined in recommendation 2 above, following confirmation of the underspend for the 2021/22 financial year;
- 5 **note** that funding for duplicate early learning relief teacher costs could be met from the \$8.5 million remaining from the Early Learning Sustainability Fund and earmarked by Cabinet for early learning-related vaccination costs [CAB-21-MIN-0414 refers];
- 6 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to ensure funding support for relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools covering to the end of Term 4, 2021, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education Minister of Education	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Primary and Secondary Education (MCA)					
<i>Non-departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Primary Education	2.981	-	-	-	-
Secondary Education	1.852	-	-	-	-
Outcomes for Target Student Groups (MCA)					
<i>Non-departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Learning Support and Alternative Education	0.167	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	5.000	-	-	-	-

- 7 **agree** that the expenses incurred under recommendation 6 above be charged as a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 operating allowance;

8 9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

11 **note** that I will report back to Cabinet should further funding be required for relief teacher/backfill costs 9(2)(f)(iv) as outlined in recommendations 6 and 8 above;

12 **approve** the following fiscally neutral adjustment to ensure funding support for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Minister of Education					
<i>Non-departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Early Learning	7.660	-	-	-	-
Support for Early Learning Providers	(7.660)	-	-	-	-

13 **agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply; and

- 14 **note** that I will report back to Cabinet as required on the two emerging funding pressures relating to sick leave and distance education under the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister for Education

Proactively Released



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 17 December 2021


On 20 December 2021, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 17 December 2021:

Out of scope

SWC-21-MIN-0219 **Addressing COVID-19-Related Cost Pressures Within the Education System** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Education

Out of scope

Out of scope



Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Addressing COVID-19-Related Cost Pressures Within the Education System

Portfolio **Education**

On 15 December 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that recent changes in response to COVID-19 have meant the education system is now experiencing some significant shifts including the return to on-site education in Alert Level 3 areas, mandatory vaccination requirements and the shift to implement the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF);
- 2 **noted** that the shifts outlined in paragraph 1 above have resulted in additional cost pressures across the education system including:
 - 2.1 additional counselling services in primary schools arising from students' return to onsite education in Alert Level 3 areas;
 - 2.2 ensuring schools have appropriately ventilated teaching spaces;
 - 2.3 ensuring funding continuity for early learning services;
 - 2.4 relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools and early learning services impacted by mandatory vaccination requirements;
 - 2.5 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
 - 2.6 funding for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.
- 3 **noted** that some of the above cost pressures could be met through re-purposing existing education baselines in the first instance, while other cost pressures require urgent funding decisions from Cabinet;
- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education jointly to finalise re-purposing existing education baselines for the non-urgent cost pressures outlined in paragraph 2 above, following confirmation of the underspend for the 2021/22 financial year;
- 5 **noted** that funding for duplicate early learning relief teacher costs could be met from the \$8.5 million remaining from the Early Learning Sustainability Fund and earmarked by Cabinet for early learning-related vaccination costs [CAB-21-MIN-0414];

- 6 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to ensure funding support for relief teacher/backfill support costs for schools covering to the end of Term 4, 2021, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt:

Vote Education Minister of Education	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Primary and Secondary Education (MCA) <i>Non-departmental Output Expenses:</i> Primary Education	2.981				
Secondary Education	1.852				
Outcomes for Target Student Groups (MCA) <i>Non-departmental Output Expense:</i> Learning Support and Alternative Education	0.167				
Total Operating	5.000				

- 7 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 6 above be charged as a pre-commitment against the Budget 2022 operating allowance;

8 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 11 **noted** that the Minister of Education will report back to Cabinet should further funding be required for relief teacher/backfill costs 9(2)(f)(iv) as outlined in paragraphs 6 and 8 above;

- 12 **approved** the following fiscally neutral adjustment to ensure funding support for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt:

Vote Education Minister of Education	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
<i>Non-departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Early Learning	7.660				
Support for Early Learning Providers	(7.660)				

- 13 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 14 **noted** that the Minister of Education intends to report back to Cabinet as required on two further emerging funding pressures relating to sick leave and distance education under the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC