



Education Report: Extending reporting timeframe – CRRF funding targeted support for at risk ākonga

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	10 December 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1278490
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to obtain your agreement to extend the timeframe for reporting on the Enhanced Wellbeing Fund and the Professional Learning and Development initiative due to lockdown delays. Both initiatives are part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) for targeted support for at-risk ākonga.

Summary

- 1 Targeted support for at-risk ākonga in Alternative Education, Activity Centres, Teen Parent Units and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu is part of the CRRF operating contingency.
- 2 The Enhanced Wellbeing Fund is for ākonga in at-risk settings to support their continued participation and engagement in education. The CRRF is available until the end of 2021. The PLD initiative enables providers to apply for additional funding to build staff capability to respond to student wellbeing needs in at-risk provision. Recipients are required to report back to the Ministry on the use of the PLD funding and the outcomes achieved. The funding is available until the end of 2021.
- 3 Providers have reported that expenditure of both funds has been delayed by the COVID-19 lockdowns. They have requested that reporting on expenditure be extended until the end of Term Two 2022.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a) **agree** that reporting on the Enhanced Wellbeing Fund and for Professional Learning and Development for at-risk providers, part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund contingency for targeted support for at-risk ākonga, be extended until 8 July 2022 (the end of Term 2);
- b) **note** that Funding Agreements with schools managing at-risk provisions and with Te Kura for the Enhanced Wellbeing Fund will need to be varied to amend the due date for final reporting; and
- c) **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree/Disagree

Noted

Agree / Disagree



Dr David Wales
Poutohu Matua | Te Hāpai Ō Rāngai
National Director Learning Support Delivery
Te Pae Aronui

10/12/2021



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

12/12/2021

Background

1. Targeted support for at-risk ākonga in Alternative Education, Activity Centres, Teen Parent Units and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu at-risk gateways is part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) operating contingency.

The Enhanced Wellbeing Fund

2. The Enhanced Wellbeing Fund is for ākonga in at-risk settings to support their continued participation and engagement in education. The total allocation for the Fund is \$6.929m. Funding Agreements were signed by Directors of Education and providers for the Fund in November 2020. Two payments have already been made, the first of \$4.750m was to cover Term 4 2020 and Terms 1 and 2 2021, and the second of \$2.179m was made in Term 3 2021 to cover the remainder of the 2021 school year. Mid-year reports were provided by 31 July 2021 and final reports are due by 20 December 2021. The Fund is available until the end of 2021.
3. Due to the lack of face-to-face time with ākonga during 2021, Alternative Education providers, Activity Centres, Teen Parent Units and Te Kura have not been able to use the Enhanced Wellbeing Funding as they had planned. They have requested that the Ministry extend the time that the funding is available, and that reporting is extended until the end of Term Two 2022.
4. The Ministry supports this request. If you agree, we would sign a variation to the Funding Agreement to change the end date and the due date for final reports about the Enhanced Wellbeing Fund to 8 July 2022 (end of Term 2).

Professional Learning and Development initiative

5. The Professional Learning and Development (PLD) initiative enables providers to apply for additional PLD funding to build staff capability to respond to student wellbeing needs in at-risk provision. Schools and their providers can apply for up to \$3,000. The total allocation is \$0.609m and \$0.2m remains to be allocated. We have recently received applications from the Activity Centre and Alternative Education National Bodies. The funding is available until the end of 2021. Recipients are required to report back to the Ministry on the use of the funding and the outcomes achieved.
6. The PLD initiative has also been affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns. Conferences were planned for Alternative Education providers and Teen Parent Units in 2021. A significant proportion of the PLD funding was being used to support attendance at these conferences. Successful applicants have already received their funding and we are aware that many have pre-paid for flights, accommodation and conference registrations. Both conferences have now been postponed until March 2022. We are talking with the National Bodies about what their contingency plans are if their conferences are not able to go ahead in 2022 due to COVID-19.
7. If you agree, we will let PLD funding recipients know that their report back to Te Pae Aronui on their use of the funding would be extended to 8 July 2022 (end of Term 2).

Risks

8. The Ministry is in regular communication with the Alternative Education, Activity Centre and Teen Parent Unit National Bodies and Te Kura. We are confident that they have plans in place to spend the funding in term 1 2022. The COVID Protection Framework will now enable firm planning to be undertaken for the two conferences, including the contingency to hold the conferences online or be regionally-based.

Financial Implications

9. The reporting requirements already in place for these funds will ensure recipients are held accountable for the funding they have already received but have not been able to spend. The funding is appropriated for the 2021/22 financial year, so no funding transfers are required.