



Briefing Note: New Zealand Council for Educational Research Annual Report 2021/2022

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	1 December 2022	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1300785
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Messaging seen by Communications team	N/A	Round Robin	No

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note that the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) Annual Report 2021/22 meets statutory requirements and can be presented to Parliament.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Summary

- You have just received the Annual Report for 2021/22 from NZCER.
- The document meets the statutory requirements and can be tabled. As the responsible Minister for NZCER, you would present it to Parliament 'as soon as practicable' after receiving it.
- NZCER will liaise with your office on the process and timing for tabling its Annual Report.



Tom Dibley

National Director

Evidence Data and Knowledge

1/12/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti

Associate Minister of Education

01/12/2022

Statutory Requirements

1. The NZCER Act 1972 (the Act) requires NZCER to provide the responsible Minister with an Annual Report on its proceedings and operations (s32). This must include financial statements and the audit report on those statements for the financial year just ended.
2. NZCER's Annual Report for 2021/22 has recently been provided to you as Minister with delegated responsibility for NZCER. We can confirm that the Report meets statutory requirements and can be tabled.
3. You are responsible for presenting the Annual Report 'as soon as practicable' after receiving it (s32).

Key points from the 2021/22 Annual Report

4. The Annual Report describes NZCER's key activities under its four strategic priorities (this is the first Annual Report with NZCER's new strategic priorities). These include:

Strategic priority: Decolonising education

- a. Activities undertaken by NZCER in 2021/22 that contributed to this strategic priority included:
 - Welcoming a series of speakers with an explicit focus on decolonisation of education.
 - Through NZCER's administration of the Teaching and Learning Research Initiative (TLRI), NZCER supports the Whatua Tū Aka pathway which explicitly focuses on kaupapa Māori research initiatives.
 - Ongoing work to expand the Te Reo Māori Assessment Tool.

Strategic priority: Upholding mana Māori, whakamana Māori

- b. Activities undertaken by NZCER in 2021/22 that contributed to this strategic priority included:
 - Release of the *Manaakitia ngā tamariki kia ora ai – Supporting children's wellbeing* research report dedicated to promoting good practice in Aotearoa schools when it comes to the wellbeing of tamariki Māori.
 - Continuation of prior research: *He reo ka tipu i ngā kura – Growing te reo Māori in schools* to support reo Māori revitalisation in English-medium schools.
 - Release of *Conceptualising Māori and Pasifika Aspirations and Striving for Success (COMPASS)* report that identified four punga (anchors) that are critical for the educational journeys of ākonga.
 - NZCER journal *Set: Research information for teachers* continues to be a space to support kaupapa Māori research, and give space to critical thinkers who light the path to upholding whakamana Māori.

Strategic priority: Improving equity for ākonga and equity in education

- c. Activities undertaken by NZCER in 2021/22 that contributed to this strategic priority included:
 - Releasing two research reports/papers in this space; *Learning during lockdown*, and *Student activism: Learning through doing*.
 - Findings were reported from the latest National Survey of Secondary schools.
 - Contributing to content design, analysis and reporting for the National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (NMSSA).
 - In 2021, NZCER entered a three-year partnership with the NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to deliver a programme of research and evaluation.
 - The portfolio of ongoing research and evaluation work with Te Ara Ahunga Ora | Retirement Commission continues to grow.
 - NZCER is undertaking work to refresh the Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs).

Strategic priority: Influencing the future of education

- d. Activities undertaken by NZCER in 2021/22 that contributed to this strategic priority included:
 - Ongoing climate change research continues to highlight innovative ways the education sector can respond to the climate crisis.
 - Release of the publication: *Teaching for Complex Systems Thinking*, and the research report *It's time: Transformational timetabling practices*.
 - NZCER kaimahi took up key roles supporting the NZ Curriculum Refresh.

5. The Annual Report also briefly outlines five areas that NZCER plans to focus on in its longer journey:
- a. Develop internal tikanga and te reo, focus on what decolonisation looks like in practice, and develop kaimahi inline with strategic priorities.
 - b. Foster partnership, particularly with Māori and Pacific communities, ensure Te Pae Tawhiti remains focused on priorities, and track progress towards becoming a bilingual organisation by 2030.
 - c. Refresh digital platforms and increase visibility of NZCER's research.
 - d. Seek new research and development opportunities, particularly those that empower Māori and Pacific communities, as well as those more generally facing socioeconomic challenges.
 - e. Develop clarity around best-practice operations in a pandemic context, and more generally, continue programmes of mahi that have an impact

6. The Annual Report shows that most New Zealand schools and kura have purchased NZCER products and services. It provides figures on the number of reports published, how many page views there have been on the NZCER website, and other measures of audience reach.
7. The Annual Report details NZCER's current financial performance. It shows that NZCER achieved a 5% surplus on the revenue earned, allowing for future investment in research and tools for the sector. Total equity increased by about 10%.
8. The Ministry of Education will continue to work with NZCER staff on the scope and contributions of its research under Te Pae Tawhiti (the government grant).

Next steps

9. NZCER will liaise with your office on the process for presenting its Annual Report to Parliament.

Proactive release

10. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.