Briefing Note: Meeting with Te Kāhui Amokura

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<th>To:</th>
<th>Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)</th>
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<td>Cc:</td>
<td>Hon Minister Hipkins, Minister of Education</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>11 February 2021</td>
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<td>Security Level:</td>
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<td>Drafter:</td>
<td>Edward Scrimgeour</td>
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<td>Key Contact:</td>
<td>Katrina Sutich</td>
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<td>Messaging seen by Communications team:</td>
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<td>Priority:</td>
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Purpose of paper

This paper provides background to your first meeting of 2021 with Te Kāhui Amokura on 12 February 2021.

Summary

- Te Kāhui Amokura have prepared a briefing Ngā Ringarehe – Māori Hands on the Future for your information. It sets out some of their priorities for 2021.

- A key concern for Te Kāhui Amokura is the membership of Taumata Aronui. They would like to nominate a member to Taumata Aronui as a representative for Māori university staff. Currently the links to universities are limited to Te Mana Ākonga – the Māori students association.

- Minister Hipkins could appoint another member with the approval of the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee. Te Kāhui Amokura are planning to meet with Taumata Aronui next week.

- Their briefing also provides commentary on a Māori higher education strategy, Te Tiriti o Waitangi expectations, and the financial impacts of COVID-19.
Proactive release

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree/Disagree

Katrina Sutich
Group Manager
Tertiary Education

11/02/2021

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
(Māori Education)

12/02/2021
Background

1. Te Kāhui Amokura wrote to you in December 2020 congratulating you on your election success and to share their briefing Ngā Ringarehe – Māori Hands on the Future which sets out some of their priorities.

2. You last met with them in March 2020, prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

3. In November 2020, officials met with Te Kāhui Amokura, where they mentioned the issues raised in their briefing.

Contents of the briefing

Impact of COVID-19

4. Te Kāhui Amokura describe the impacts of COVID-19 on both tertiary education and Māori communities. As they note the full impacts are uncertain, however the financial pressure on universities is beginning to be felt and will shape operating decisions in the coming months.

5. The group is also clear that change is needed and that a return to business as usual will not meet their aspirations for Aotearoa. “Any calls for a return to a pre-pandemic normal must be rejected if we are to address many of this country’s underlying economic, social and environmental failings”.

6. In relation to these concerns the Ministry has provided a briefing to Minister Hipkins for a strategy session on higher education in the coming months [METIS 1245123 refers].

Māori Higher Education Strategy

7. Te Kāhui Amokura want to see a Māori Higher Education Strategy. This has merit due to the critical role incomes play in Māori economic development and the high incomes available from parts of higher education.

Te Tiriti framing rather than equity or diversity lens

8. Te Kāhui Amokura express concern that using an equity or diversity lens will not deliver the Crown’s commitments to Māori-Crown partnerships. Taumata Aronui has expressed similar ideas and are looking at how tertiary education can give more powerful effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi aspirations and expectations. This seems an opportunity for further discussion through the work of Taumata Aronui.

Taumata Aronui

9. Te Kāhui Amokura would like to nominate a member to Taumata Aronui as a representative for Māori university staff. Currently the links to universities are limited to Te Mana Ākonga – the Māori students association.

10. The Terms of Reference allow for up to 10 members, so there is an available position on Taumata Aronui. Minister Hipkins can add a member to the group with the agreement of Cabinet’s Appointment and Honours Committee. You may wish to discuss with Minister Hipkins and Dr Wayne Ngata (the current chair of Taumata Aronui) about appointing another member to Taumata Aronui.

11. In the interim, Taumata Aronui are planning to meet with some members of Te Kāhui Amokura next week.
Next Steps

16. In your meeting with Taumata Aronui you could:

b. Encourage them to work with Taumata Aronui as you work through the possibility of adding a nominee to the group.

Annexes

Annex 1: Talking points