



Education Report: Change of Class for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti (2351)

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	17 February 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1234273
Drafter	Lynette Cochrane, Senior Advisor	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Julie Anderson, Director of Education for Otago-Southland	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The report seeks your approval for a change of class for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti (2351) under section 198(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020.

This kura is currently a Year 1-8 full primary school. The board has applied to become a composite Year 1-13 wharekura so that there is a local Māori Medium Immersion (MMI) pathway beyond Year 8 in Otago.

Summary

- 1 In 2016, the kura and whānau began working on their aspiration for a change of class application. The stable whānau mana whakahaere at the kura has enabled them to be in the position to now apply for wharekura status.
- 2 Since 2019, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti (TKKM o Ōtepoti) has retained Year 9 to 13 students on site through an approved satellite arrangement with Te Wharekura o Arowhenua (Invercargill). This means that secondary students enrol at that wharekura but are located at TKKM o Ōtepoti. Seven Ōtepoti-based students were being educated through this satellite arrangement at the end of 2020.
- 3 The satellite arrangement has allowed the kura to be well placed to support its older students. There are a growing number of enrolments (40 in Year 1-8 and 7 in Year 9-13 in 2020) and the Kaiako are involved in the educational delivery of the secondary satellite programme.

- 4 This application is the next stage in the kura whānau aspiration to provide a whānau-led, total immersion educational pathway at Ōtepoti. It supports the *Tau Mai Te Reo* strategy and the Ministry's aim to improve educational outcomes for Māori.
- 5 Approval of this application would also support *Maihi Karauna*, the Māori language strategy and foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives. It aligns with the *Ka Hikitia* vision of Māori enjoying educational success as Māori and the national network planning to support Māori medium education pathways.
- 6 On 30 June 2020 you agreed to consult on the proposed change of class [METIS 1227692 refers]. As required, we have consulted on your behalf with all schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change. None objected to the application, with many expressing their support as the change in class would close the gap of Māori medium education provision in Ōtepoti. The impact on the rolls of local schools is expected to be very small, as a highly-developed level of te reo Māori is required to be accepted as a taura in wharekura.
- 7 There is a property redevelopment project currently being undertaken at the kura by the Ministry's Capital Works team. As the wharekura grows, there might be a requirement for additional space in the future. This would be subject to the usual roll growth budget prioritisation process. There is adequate land for this future expansion.
- 8 Based on the current roll the additional operational cost to the Crown if this application is approved is estimated at \$311,000 (excl GST) per annum. Against this, Te Wharekura o Arowhenua would cease to receive \$24,457.39 (excluding GST) per year in split site funding for operating the satellite arrangement.
- 9 We consider that the kura is providing quality education for all students, including the senior students located at the kura under the offsite arrangement. This is supported by the Education Review Office's (ERO) latest report.
- 10 We recommend you approve this proposal for Year 1-13 MMI provision in Otago. There is currently no secondary Māori medium pathway in Otago.
- 11 While we initially thought that we could have the consultation undertaken and approval gained for implementation in Term 1 2021, it has taken more time than anticipated to collate the details required for this report. There is also a requirement for a full term between gazetting the change and its implementation. If you approve this application before the end of Term 1, 2021, it will be implemented from the start of Term 3 (26 July 2021). Funding for the secondary students will continue to be provided through to Te Wharekura o Arowhenua until the change comes into effect.

Recommended Actions

We recommend that you:

- a) **note** that on 30 June 2020 you agreed to consult on a proposed change of class for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti [METIS 1227692 refers], and that we have completed this consultation on your behalf;

Noted

- b) **agree**, under section 198(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, that Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti change its class from a Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-13 composite school with effect from 26 July 2021;

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

- c) **sign** the attached letter to the board chair and the local Members of Parliament informing them of your decision;

- d) **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice; and

- e) **agree** to proactively release this Education Report as per your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

17/2/21



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

3 / 3 / 21

Background

- 1 TKKM o Ōtepoti is a decile 2, Year 1-8 Kura Kaupapa Māori located in Ōtepoti (Dunedin). The July 2020 Year 1-8 roll was 40. The kura has seven Year 9-13 taura (students) via its satellite arrangement with Te Wharekura o Arowhenua (Invercargill).
- 2 In 2016, the board first resolved to apply for wharekura status. TKKM o Ōtepoti held a hui in 2017 with whānau and taura of Te Kura Poutama (wharekura) to discuss ideas on what they wanted in their wharekura. The strategic plan annual goals were confirmed, and off-site satellite class approval was given in 2018.
- 3 In February 2020, the TKKM o Ōtepoti Board of Trustees applied to create a local Māori immersion pathway for their taura. The board believes having this pathway would better serve the needs of taura and whānau, both academically and in pursuit of their vision for Māori achieving success as Māori.
- 4 There are significant local and regional relationships that will support teaching and learning in a wharekura setting.
- 5 *Tau Mai Te Reo* is part of the education sector's contribution to the *Maihi Karauna*. *Maihi Karauna* is the whole-of-government Māori Language Strategy. *Maihi Karauna* sets out a vision for te reo Māori in the future. It outlines what the Crown will do to support a strong, healthy, thriving Māori language in New Zealand; *Kia māhorahora te reo* – everywhere, every way, for everyone, every day.
- 6 *Tau Mai Te Reo* sets out the Ministry's goals we are seeking to achieve and provides a framework for coordinating our programmes and services that support Māori language in Māori medium and English medium education.

Education at the kura

- 7 The kura was reviewed by ERO in December 2015, 2018 and again in September 2020. The 2020 ERO report noted the quality of instruction and achievement.

"The board of trustees, whānau and tumuaki are focused on providing quality learning opportunities and care aligned to the principles of Te Aho Matua".

"Meeting the differentiated learning needs of students is a priority for kaiako."
- 8 ERO has two recommendations for the board and whānau;
 - a. provide ongoing support for the tumuaki to fulfil her professional responsibilities as the curriculum leader and classroom practitioner
 - b. continue to progress kura priorities and use internal evaluation to improve outcomes for students.
- 9 The kura is on a three-year review – Te Rākeitanga – Expansive Evaluation.

- 10 The board considers the kura to be well placed to deliver programmes for students in Year 9 to 13, learning through a school-wide inclusive immersion model that values the language and culture of its community by teaching and learning in te reo Māori.
- 11 Under the leadership of the new tumuaki who came to the kura in 2019 and given the stability of the board and support from whānau, the school is well positioned to move forward positively and grow into a wharekura.
- 12 Collaborative work with other wharekura will help TKKM o Ōtepoti mitigate risks with the size of its roll. Te Wharekura o Arowhenua will continue to guide the kura as their kura tuakana as they continue to provide quality education.

Network Considerations

- 13 In July 2020 there were around 2,300 Māori students in the Dunedin City area. Of these students approximately 54 (2.3%) were engaged at Level 1 Māori medium education (MME).
- 14 72% of primary-aged students in Dunedin learning at Level 1 attend TKKM o Ōtepoti.
- 15 All of the seven secondary-aged tauira located at the kura as at the end of 2020 were learning at Level 1 through the satellite hosted by Te Wharekura o Arowhenua.
- 16 Year 8 graduates from TKKM o Ōtepoti have previously had no Māori Medium Immersion (MMI) choice for their Year 9-13 schooling as there are no wharekura in Otago. This is currently met through the satellite arrangement with Te Wharekura o Arowhenua in Invercargill. The board and whānau at Ōtepoti would like a local MMI education pathway in Ōtepoti and Otago.
- 17 Secondary schools in Ōtepoti will not have their rolls impacted in the short to medium term, due to the highly developed level of te reo Māori required to be accepted as a tauira in wharekura. Due to the distance between TKKM o Ōtepoti and Te Wharekura o Arowhenua, the impact on Te Wharekura o Arowhenua is viewed as minimal.
- 18 To ensure whānau have access to kura kaupapa Māori education, it is proposed that TKKM o Ōtepoti be master planned to accommodate 230 students in the future. This would increase local access to kura kaupapa Māori from the current 3.2% of Māori students in Otago/Southern to 10% as a percentage of all Māori students as at July 2020.
- 19 As an interim step toward the master plan of 230 and to support the change to wharekura, it is proposed to initially increase the capacity of the kura from 75 to 150 student spaces.

Consultation

- 20 We undertook consultation under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 with the schools potentially affected by this change. Altogether, we wrote to the boards of the five nearest secondary schools and four primary schools. No board objected to the application, with six schools signalling their support.
- 21 We also consulted with Te Runanganui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori (TRN) who supported the application. We did not receive responses from the New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) and the Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA).

Financial implications

- 22 Financial analysis for the school is based on the audited financial statements from the past 4 years (2016-2020). Over the last four years, the school has made operating surpluses in every year except 2018. TKKM o Ōtepoti is in a strong financial position.
- 23 The additional annual operational cost to the Crown from the proposed change is estimated to be approximately \$311,000 (excluding GST). Against this, Te Wharekura o Arowhenua would cease to receive \$24,457.39 (excluding GST) per year in split site funding for operating the satellite arrangement.
- 24 Funding for additional property costs associated with roll increases due to the change of class would be sought in future budgets.

Staffing implications

- 25 The board and principal of TKKM o Ōtepoti have consulted the staff throughout the application process. All staff at the kura support the proposed wharekura. The staff are aware that if the application is approved, they will move to the Area Schools' Collective Agreement.

Property implications

- 26 There is a current project to demolish and rebuild Block 1 of the kura. Once Block 1 is rebuilt the kura will have teaching space to accommodate 75-80 primary-aged students.
- 27 As an interim step toward the master plan of 230 and to support the change to wharekura, it is proposed to increase the capacity of the kura from 75 to 150 student spaces.

Transport implications

- 28 No changes to existing transport arrangements are necessary. Transport entitlements for students at other schools in the area will not be affected. The kura is directly resourced for transport and provides its own transport for students.

Educational Risks / Opportunities

- 29 The projected secondary roll numbers for TKKM o Ōtepoti are relatively small. This raises the concern that the board might not provide adequate curriculum options for the raukura. The board has considered this and has mapped the available resources against its operating model. The board and Ministry staff are confident that the model will be sustainable within the predicted resourcing. The partnership with Te Wharekura o Arowhenua will continue in an adapted form.
- 30 The resourcing provided under a wharekura model is more advantageous to the kura. If the change of class is approved, the board will be able to strengthen its financial position from when the change is implemented, and deploy the extra staffing resource to strengthen the quality of educational provision.

- 31 The proposal provides a strong educational rationale for approving the change of class and if approved will be the first wharekura in Otago. The impact on the rolls of other local schools in the short to medium term will not be significant as the kura students will progress through to wharekura. The master planned roll of 230 is likely to be achieved in future years.

Conclusion

- 32 We recommend that the change of class be approved for the following reasons:
- There is a need to establish a viable local MMI schooling pathway in Otago to Year 13 for whānau who have enrolled their tamariki in kura kaupapa Māori.
 - Approving this application is an opportunity to allow the board of TKKM o Ōtepoti to govern its Year 1-13 provision and provide a localised learning pathway. The wharekura will promote whānau-led, total immersion education in Otago and support the Regional priorities for Māori Medium educational pathways.
 - The change would also support *Maihi Karauna*, the Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with the *Ka Hikitia*.

Risks and mitigation

- 33 There is a risk that the change of class to wharekura will not be met with a community desire to access kura kaupapa Māori education. This risk is low when taken in the context of Ministry initiatives to increase the levels of interest for whānau to access Māori medium education. It is expected that there will be more interest in enrolments than those currently enrolled, as there will be a Māori medium schooling pathway in Otago.
- 34 There is a low risk is associated with having a master planning figure that is too low, with the wharekura receiving a high level of interest from whānau wanting to access Māori medium education. Roll growth teaching space would be required. This risk is mitigated by having a master planning figure that future-proofs demand for enrolments in the wharekura.

Next steps

- 35 If you agree, please sign the attached notice for the *New Zealand Gazette* giving effect to your decision (Annex 1).
- 36 If you approve this application in Term 1 2021, it will be implemented from the start of Term 3 (26 July 2021). This is later than we initially considered as it has taken more time to collate this report than was initially anticipated. Funding for the secondary students will continue to be provided through to Te Wharekura o Arowhenua (the tuakana) until the change comes into effect.
- 37 Please also sign the attached letters to the board chairperson and local Members of Parliament (Annex 2).
- 38 We will support the board to implement this change. We have made sure they are aware of the new timeline and note that this will also fit with the building programme at the kura.

Proactive release

- 39 It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Annex 2: Letters to board and Local MPs

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Notice for the New Zealand Gazette

Change of Class of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti (2351).

Pursuant to section 198(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby declare that Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti will become a Year 1-13 composite school on 26 July 2021 and cease to be a Year 1-8 primary school on that day.

Dated at Wellington this 3rd day of March 2021.

A blue ink signature of Hon Chris Hipkins.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Mrs Fiona Matapo
Chairperson
TKKM o Ōtepoti Board
378 Main South Road
Fairfield
DUNEDIN 9018

Dear Mrs Matapo

Thank you for the application from your board for a change of class for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti to become a Year 1-13 composite wharekura.

After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to approve the application. I have made this decision to enable the wharekura to be able to offer students and their whānau a seamless educational pathway to the completion of their secondary education in an immersion environment.

The change to become Year 1-13 is required to be published in the *New Zealand Gazette* at least a full school term ahead of the implementation date. The change of class will be gazetted shortly so it will take effect from 26 July 2021.

In making the transition to become a composite kura there will be a number of matters your board will need to consider. Please contact your board's support organisation to ensure a smooth transition. Similarly, staff may transition to a new Collective Agreement and teacher unions will be able to support them in this change. Roll growth classrooms, which will be generated through this change of class, will be managed over the coming years through the Ministry's Otago-Southland office.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the service that the members of the current and previous boards, and staff, have given to the students of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

cc: Julie Anderson Director of Education for Otago-Southland

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Ingrid Leary
MP for Taieri
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ingrid

I have received an application for a change of class from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti, in Ōtepoti from being Year 1-8 kura to a Year 1-13 wharekura.

After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to approve the application. I have made this decision to enable the wharekura to be able to offer students and their whānau a seamless educational pathway to the completion of their secondary education in a Māori Medium Immersion environment.

This change will be implemented from 26 July 2021.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Rino Tirikatene
MP for Te Tai Tonga
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Rino

I have received an application for a change of class from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti, in Ōtepoti from being Year 1-8 kura to a Year 1-13 wharekura.

After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to approve the application. I have made this decision to enable the wharekura to be able to offer students and their whānau a seamless educational pathway to the completion of their secondary education in a Māori Medium Immersion environment.

This change will be implemented from 26 July 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education