

## Education Report: Meeting with the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2023	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1303741
<b>Drafter:</b>	Hannah Aitken	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This paper provides you with background information, relevant work programme updates and talking points in preparation for your meeting with the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand on Wednesday 15 February, from 4.30-5.00pm.

### Summary

1. The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) is an umbrella national body for Muslim associations in New Zealand. It has published a number of reports commenting on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019 (RCOI) and the Government's response.
2. FIANZ has representation on Kāpuia and has also developed a Five-Year Education Sector Work programme. The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) engages with FIANZ on an ongoing basis.
3. FIANZ have asked to meet with you to discuss the following:
  - a. Follow up on the key work programmes between the Ministry and FIANZ;
  - b. An invitation to provide the keynote address at the National Community Forum on Education in March 2023; and
  - c. Ministry guidance on developing community resources for the education sector.
4. 9(2)(f)(iv)
5. Rose Jamieson, National Director - Parent Information & Community Intelligence, will be available to attend if needed.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

9(2)(f)(iv)

- b. **agree** that the Ministry release this briefing once it has been considered by you, with redactions as required for information in paragraph 19, 20 and 21 relating to matters under active consideration.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree



Tipene Chrisp  
**Group Manager**  
**Te Pou Kaupapahere**

10/02/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Minister of Education**

11/02/2023

## Background

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### The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

1. The Muslim population in New Zealand is diverse, comprising many ethnicities, languages and cultures. There are several groups that represent Muslim communities.
2. Established in 1979, FIANZ is an umbrella national body for 7 regional Muslim associations across New Zealand. The government has a direct relationship with the Muslim community, including FIANZ, through Kāpuia. You last met with Kāpuia on 27 October 2022.
3. In late 2021, FIANZ developed a Five-Year Education Sector Work programme, this set out seventeen initiatives at a high level designed to recognise and support the growing Muslim community in New Zealand.
4. The Ministry engages with FIANZ on an ongoing basis, including on work related to its education sector work programme as well as work relating to RCOI Recommendation 36 and social cohesion. The Ministry has also been in contact with the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ) and other community members.

### The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019 (RCOI)

5. The RCOI report included Recommendation 36, which challenged the Government to: *'Invest in opportunities for young New Zealanders to learn about their role, rights and responsibilities and on the value of ethnic and religious diversity, inclusivity, conflict resolution, civic literacy and self-regulation.'*
6. FIANZ noted in January 2022 that it was satisfied with the progress made by the Ministry of Education towards Recommendation 36.
7. In August 2022, Cabinet received a report back on the Ministry's progress on RCOI Recommendation 36 [CAB-22-MIN-0336 refers]. This report back outlined the Ministry's response to RCOI Recommendation 36, including:
  - a. Community Learning Hubs;
  - b. Challenging Racism toolkit;
  - c. Social and Emotional Learning in Early Years; and
  - d. Engagement with Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand and Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand.
8. This report back noted that social cohesion is woven throughout education settings including in the Education and Training Act (2020), National Education and Learning Priorities and Tertiary Education Strategy.
9. Implementation of this work is supported by initiatives including Positive Behaviour for Learning School-Wide, Te Hurihanganui, Talanoa Ako, Tu'u Mālohi and the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Leaders) Code of Practice 2021. Social cohesion is also supported by the broader education work programme, particularly the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum and redesign of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

## Meeting with the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

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10. You are meeting with FIANZ on Wednesday 15 February, from 4.30-5.00pm.
11. There will be three FIANZ attendees in the 15 February meeting, including:
  - Abdur Razzaq, FIANZ RCOI Chairperson
  - Ibrar Sheikh, FIANZ President
  - Rehanna Ali, Islamic Women Council of New Zealand Co-Founder.
12. FIANZ have asked to meet with you to discuss the following:
  - a. Follow up on the key work programmes between the Ministry and FIANZ;
  - b. An invitation to provide the keynote address at the National Community Forum on Education in March 2023; and
  - c. Ministry guidance on developing community resources for the education sector.
13. The work programmes relevant to the ongoing engagement between the Ministry and FIANZ primarily relate to the Ministry's work to respond to RCOI Recommendation 36. Provided in the section below is background information on these work programmes and suggested talking points are provided in Annex 1.

### Key work programmes

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#### ***Community Learning Hubs***

14. The Government's initial social inclusion package funded the Community Learning Hubs in Christchurch. The hubs provide workshops and information to support ethnic communities' engagement with the education system, and have since been expanded to Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington. The hubs have received positive feedback and engaging discussions from attendees. Topics and concerns raised by parents have included meaningful education pathways, relationship and sexuality education, bullying and discrimination and supporting culture, language and identity for learners.
15. Budget 2022 provided \$6.411m to maintain the Community Learning Hubs and fund an evaluation of the model. Implementation of Budget 2022 funding has included establishment of a Community Partnerships team that has undertaken a review of the 2022 Learning Community Hubs programme and started planning implementation for around 30 hubs in 2023.

#### ***Challenging Racism toolkit***

16. As part of ongoing work to provide curriculum resources that support schools and teachers to challenge racism and discrimination and embrace diversity, a Challenging Racism Toolkit for year 9 and 10 students has been piloted. As a result, more than 1200 Challenging Racism 19 kits have reached more than 38,000 learners as well as 342 Challenging Racism 21 kits that have reached over 10,000 learners.


#### ***Social and Emotional Learning in Early Years***

17. The social inclusion package also funded a Social and Emotional Learning pilot for early years, which aimed to foster self-regulation, resilience and social and emotional

competencies in young children. This pilot scheme involved the trialling of three social and emotional learning programmes: ENGAGE; The Alert Programme; and Incredible Beginnings.

18. Funding for this pilot scheme is due to end in June 2023, by this date at least 290 Early Learning Services will be offering at least one form of social and emotional learning and 10,150 tamariki will be benefitting from those practices.

9(2)(f)(iv)



***Ministry guidance for developing community resources for education***

22. We believe FIANZ are seeking Ministry guidance for developing community resources for education. We recommend you refer FIANZ to the Ministry to discuss specific details. In addition to our ongoing engagement with FIANZ, there are two upcoming opportunities for FIANZ to progress this work with the Ministry.

***Engagement with Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand and Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand***

23. The Ministry engages with FIANZ and IWCNZ on an ongoing basis. Following a recent engagement and workshop with FIANZ, IWCNZ and other Muslim community members, the Ministry is developing a roadmap of activity relating to the following themes identified through community feedback:

- Providing accessible advice and support for victims and their families, including providing information in culturally responsive ways and in different languages.
- Developing anti-bullying workshops in schools and potentially in the community.
- Building a database of key contacts and resources from across different supporting agencies.
- Providing clear and accessible information on the steps schools take before, during and after an incident.
- Following up with families and communities so they know what actions have been taken and why.
- Providing training or for community advocates and organisations as the first point of contact for community members.

24. This work is still underway and has yet to be discussed with the community via FIANZ and IWCNZ. Following an internal workshop on these themes, the Ministry will engage FIANZ and IWCNZ on our proposed roadmap to:

- Understand their views and how they want to engage their community of the mahi;
- Gauge their interest in co-designing the outputs; and
- Utilise resources the community have produced themselves.

#### *Refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum*

25. As part of the engagement phase for the Refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum, a one-day hui was organised with the Muslim community on 5 November 2022. This was planned in partnership with FIANZ and there were around 50 participants from across New Zealand. Participants at this hui provided valuable input into the draft of the curriculum framework for the Curriculum refresh along with positive comments about the draft Social Science Learning Area. They also commented positively on the partnership approach that was taken.

26. Participants had a particular interest in the refreshed content that would support local school curriculum design, planning and review. It was agreed that there would be a follow up hui at the end of March or early April 2023, as part of the next engagement/feedback phase.

27. Based on this engagement and feedback, the Ministry anticipates that FIANZ and the Muslim community will have an interest in supporting the development of Mātaioho (the draft Curriculum Framework) and Mātaiahikā (an aspect of Mātaioho that focuses on learning through relationships with mana whenua and local communities). The upcoming March or April hui will provide a good opportunity to discuss this further, and we will begin planning this next hui with FIANZ in preparation.

#### **Next Steps**

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28. We will continue to work with FIANZ and other community groups in our work to support social cohesion through education. As outlined above, some opportunities to continue this work will include:

- Engagement on a proposed roadmap of actions to address community feedback around providing accessible victim advice and support; and
- Engagement on the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum and related work.

#### **Annexes**

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##### **Annex 1: Talking points**