



## BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Onepoto School, to open new school buildings on Friday 13 August 2021

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	6 August 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1266034
Drafter:	Chrissy Denison	DDI:	09 632 9455
Key Contact:	Te Iwingaro Dunn	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

### Purpose

1. This briefing note provides information to support the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern's visit to Onepoto School to open new school buildings on Friday 13 August 2021.

### Proactive Release

2. **Agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree



Jann Marshall  
Pouwhakarae | Te Hāpai Ō Rāngai  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Network and School Delivery  
Sector Enablement and Support

6/8/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

10/8/2021

## Onepoto School (#1400)

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Contact Name: Daniella Latoa-Levi  
Principal

9(2)(a)

Address: Onepoto School  
31 Fraser Avenue  
Northcote  
Auckland

### Key People

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Presiding Member: Alan Curtis

9(2)(a)

Principal: Daniella Latoa-Levi

9(2)(a)

Names of other notable people attending:

Member of Parliament for Northcote: Shanan Halbert  
Harbourside Church: Moira and Andrew Brown  
Kaumatua, school's cultural adviser: Jerry Norman  
Mana whenua (Ngāti Paoa): Church Minister Shannon Leilua and  
Reverend Pennie Otto

Ministry Official: Tanya Harvey  
Deputy Director of Education - Auckland.  
9(2)(a)

### School Profile Information

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Authority	State
School Type	Contributing (Year 1-6)
School Gender	Co-ed
Education Medium	English
Decile	1
Electorate	Northcote

3. The July 2020 breakdown of roll information is shown below. There have been 30 new enrolments in the first half of 2021 as families move into the redeveloped catchment area. The Onepoto School's Enrolment Scheme became operational Term 1, 2021 in alignment with other local schools.

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	20	37 %
Pacific	24	44.4 %
Asian	5	9.3 %
Other	2	3.7 %
European/ Pākehā	3	5.6 %
International	0	0 %
Total	54	100 %

#### Visit and event information

##### Runsheets

4. The Prime Minister will arrive at 10am for a one-hour visit.

Time	Activity
10:00	Arrival and MC – Alan Curtis Presiding Member - Welcome
10:05	Karakia
10:10	Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern to speak
10:15	Student Speakers
10:20	Principal – Daniella Latoa-Levi
10:25	School tautoko - Waiata
10:30	MC – Official Opening – the Prime Minister and two students to cut the ribbon. A senior year 6 student who is the last of the family siblings to attend the school, and a year 1 who is starting their school journey. School Haka takes place as soon as the ribbon is cut.
10:35	Presiding Member thank you speech
10:40	Ending Karakia – Matua Jerry
10:45	Buildings open for walk through
10:50	Morning Tea in Studio 2
11:00	Depart

#### Background

- A blessing of the building is taking place on Monday 2 August at 6.30am and is organised by Jerry Norman, Kaumatua / School's Cultural Advisor.
- The school was built in 1961 before social housing – now being rebuilt as part of another housing development 60 years on. It is the school's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021.
- Demolition of the original school buildings began in 2019. North Harbour Rotary took on some of the pre-demolition work. Equipment and furniture rescued was sent to Tonga for reusing by schools.



## Impact of COVID-19

8. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, the school delivered learning packs to all their students along with food parcels. Students access to online learning was compromised by lack of devices and online accessibility.
9. The school applied for the Urgent Response Fund. There were two school applications submitted and both were approved – 9(2)(j) [redacted]. The first application for 9(2)(j) [redacted] in 2020 was for ten learners for their needs relating to attendance, engagement and academic support and a second application for 9(2)(j) [redacted] in 2021 was for a further 15 learners.

## Education Review Office (ERO)

10. The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2019. The school will become a participant in the ERO Evaluative Pathway (New Operating) Model 2021.
11. ERO (2019) found that efforts were made to ensure that planning and evaluation are streamlined to provide coherent direction and targeted focus. The principal has integrated ERO's improvement priorities, and the Student Achievement Function (SAF) planning in the school's charter planning.

## Kāhui Ako

12. The school belongs to the Northcote Kāhui Ako. A recent presentation by Melinda Webber focused on how schools can build cultural efficacy and using the 'Mana Model'. This model suggest Māori student thinking and behaviour is motivated by the desire to achieve a sense of mana through self-efficacy.
13. In 2022 there will be a focus on mathematics in response to the decline in the Programme for International Student Achievement (PISA) scores for New Zealand.
14. A Kāhui Ako event for Early Learning Centres is to be held on Monday 2 August with a Literacy focus.
15. A Kāhui Ako application for Urgent Response Funding was approved to access School TV which supported attendance, well-being and emotional support for whānau.

## Participation in government programmes

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### School Donations Scheme

16. The school opted-in to the School Donations Scheme for 2020 and has opted in for 2021. The school received \$11,040 in lieu of donations in 2020 and will receive \$9,315 in 2021 based on the July roll return.

### Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

17. The school is taking part in the programme and started serving lunches in Term 2 having chosen the external model with two suppliers - "Pita Pit" and "Secret Chef".
18. Feedback from the school is that students are loving the food provided. It also supplements their Breakfast Club that operates daily from 8.15am.

### **Access to Period products**

19. Onepoto School has not yet opted-in to the initiative.

### **Learning Support Coordinators**

20. The school is part of the Northcote Kāhui Ako, which has been allocated six Learning Support Coordinators (LSCs). The LSCs are based at Northcote School and Onepoto School shares an LSC due to its roll size.

### **Creatives in schools**

21. Onepoto School did not apply for Round 1 or 2 of the Creatives in Schools Project.

### **Property**

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22. Onepoto School has undergone a major rebuild, \$19.5m was announced under Budget 18 to replace and rebuild the school, to address both existing condition issues and capacity. Due to extensive Kāinga Ora development in the surrounding Northcote area, the school has been built for an anticipated roll of 350 students.

23. The new school is a modern, fit-for-purpose learning environment that will support Onepoto School to serve its expanding community. It includes 16 modern teaching and learning spaces, a new administration space and a new library.

24. The two-storey building includes a bridge connecting the school to the top playing field, and a slide connecting the two floors.

25. In addition, the school has also undergone extensive landscaping works, including an upgraded playground, the installation of a vegetable garden and an outdoor reading circle.

26. The school received \$50k in School Investment Package funding and has chosen to put this towards the installation of a new Fale.

27. The existing hall was retained to provide decanting space for the school during construction, as it was in reasonable condition. Once the school moves into the new buildings, the hall will undergo some modernisation works before being returned to the school for their use.

28. Watts and Hughes were contracted for the design and build of the school, which has been completed over 14 months.

29. While the school is still in the defects checking period, we do not anticipate any issues at this stage. The school are very happy with their new spaces.



## Annexes

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### Annex 1: Speech Notes

Tēnā koutou katoa and thank you for having me here today. It is a privilege to be with you to celebrate this wonderful new building and all of the hard work that you all did to make this happen.

I'd like to acknowledge the Tumuaki / Principal Daniella Latoa-Levi, Presiding Member Alan Curtis and other Board members.

When Onepoto School was constructed in 1961, the young families were Northcote's early settlers who poured across the bridge arriving in what had previously been a rural area, with few shops, no public transport (apart from the ferry at nearby Northcote Point) nor even telephones.

Within in a few years and with the building of the school, a new urban neighbourhood was up and running, complete with a very modern town centre, an uncovered shopping mall that opened in the mid-1960s. Along with the privately-owned dwellings which gradually appeared in the suburb, between 1960 and 1969, state housing also featured prominently in Northcote's development.

This brings us to the present day 60 years on and celebrating the school's 60th birthday this year. Onepoto School is now being rebuilt as part of a new Kāinga Ora housing and community development, replacing 380 tired and run-down existing state houses on land owned by government housing organisation Kāinga Ora, with warm, dry, modern state houses and apartments.

This new school represents the creative and reflective ideas, hopes and dreams of the students, their whānau and community and the school staff and Board.

The koru – the fern unfurling atop the building, symbolises the start of new beginnings, growth, strength and new life - a new phase in the relationship between school and community. As it unfurls, the koru reflects constant movement and growth, all the while remaining connected to one original point.

The design, inspired by hopes and dreams, has been built on educational foundations and concepts. The angle of the koru and the building enables all learners to see each other learning. The school leaders have selected only the best of what works to put into practice at Onepoto School - fulfilling those student and community aspirations with opportunities that are future-focused with a real educational edge.

Thanks to everyone else involved – contractors and designers – but special mention to the students, who have shown great resilience to stay focussed during the disruption which comes with construction.