



Education Report: Drawdown of funding to expand Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service

To:	Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	9 June 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1260421
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	N/A	Round Robin:	Yes

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks your agreement to the drawdown of operating funding to expand Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service to enable access for an additional 95 ākonga with wellbeing and behaviour needs.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **note** that, in April 2021, Cabinet agreed to establish a tagged operating contingency of \$17.728 million over four years for intensive support for young learners with wellbeing and behavioural needs that may be challenging to others, and authorised the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education jointly to approve the drawdown of the contingency [CAB-21-MIN-0116.10 initiative 13545 refers]

Noted
Minister of Finance

Noted
Minister of Education

- b. **note** that the Minister of Education and Associate Minister of Education (Hon Jan Tinetti) agreed that this funding be used to expand Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service to enable access for an additional 95 ākonga [METIS 1255574 refers]

Noted
Minister of Finance

Noted
Minister of Education

- c. **approve** the following changes to appropriations to expand Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service to enable access for an additional 95 ākonga with wellbeing and behaviour needs, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education Minister of Education	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25& outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA					
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</i> Learning Support and Alternative Education	-	3.483	3.483	3.483	3.483
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i> Interventions for Target Student Groups (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.930
Total Operating	-	4.413	4.413	4.413	4.413

Approved / Not approved
Minister of Finance

Approved / Not approved
Minister of Education

- d. **agree** that the proposed change to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education

- e. **agree** that the expenses incurred under recommendation (c) above be charged against the Contingency: Intensive Support for Young Learners with Wellbeing and Behavioural Needs that may be Challenging to Others, that the contingency be closed and any balance returned to the centre

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education

Proactive Release Recommendation

The Ministry of Education recommends that the Minister of Education:

- f. **agree** that this Education Report is proactively released as part of the next publication.

Agree / Disagree



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy
9/6/2021



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance
21/06/2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
 / /

Background


1. The education sector has expressed concerns about reports of increasing incidents of severe behaviour that pose a danger to staff and students, and a lack of support for schools that are directed to enrol students who display these behaviours.
2. On 7 April 2021, the Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins and Associate Minister of Education, Hon Jan Tinetti, agreed to seek Cabinet agreement to reprioritise \$17.728 million over four years to expand Te Kahu Tōi, the Intensive Wraparound Service (TKT/IWS) in response to these concerns [METIS 1255574 refers].
3. Cabinet agreed to reprioritise the \$17.728 million and use it to establish a tagged operating contingency for intensive support for young learners with wellbeing and behavioural needs that may be challenging to others. Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education to jointly approve the drawdown of the contingency [CAB-21-MIN-0116.10 initiative 13545 refers].

Expanding Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service

4. TKT/IWS supports children and young people aged 5-14 with highly complex and challenging behaviour, social and/or learning needs who require support at school/kura, at home and in the community. As at 1 June 2021, there were 401 ākonga who had received support through TKT/IWS during the 2020/21 financial year, with an annual target of 409. Two regional panel meetings to approve ākonga to receive the service were yet to be held.
5. The TKT/IWS service is provided by Ministry-employed psychologists and facilitators who are contracted through Barnardos NZ. It includes funding for wraparound plans that support the child's learning and behaviour needs, costing an average of \$27,000 per child per year. Depending on the child's needs assessment, this funding might be used for therapeutic support, family therapy or counselling, access to pro-social community activities, or school-based interventions such as specialist teachers, mentors, teacher aides, learning resources, or teacher training in trauma-informed practice.
6. The support provided through TKT/IWS aligns with the key features of best practice for supporting ākonga with wellbeing and behaviour needs, and the types of support that principals have expressed a need for. Ākonga who receive support from TKT/IWS show positive shifts in mental health, self-control of behaviours and emotions, social skills, attitudes and beliefs, relationships with others, and access to safe environments and achievement in the home, school, and community. Ākonga Māori make equal progress in TKT/IWS to non-Māori ākonga. Rates of stand downs, suspensions and exclusions are substantially lower for ākonga exiting the service than at the start of service.
7. The funding available in contingency would enable access to TKT/IWS for up to 95 additional ākonga per year, supported by an additional six FTE psychologists and nine contracted FTE facilitators. To ensure that the expanded service will be in place from 1 July 2021, we need to draw down this funding as soon as possible so that we can recruit the additional psychologists and vary our contract with Barnardos NZ.

Table 1: Breakdown of costs for expanding IWS (\$m)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & outyears	4 Year Total
Funding for ākonga wraparound plans/interventions (\$27,000 each)	2.565	2.565	2.565	2.565	10.260
Facilitators (9 FTE)	0.918	0.918	0.918	0.918	3.672
Psychologists (6 FTE + overheads)	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	3.600
Travel	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.120
Total operating	4.413	4.413	4.413	4.413	17.652

8. This drawdown would leave \$76,000 remaining in the contingency, which is not needed and can be returned to the centre.
9. Expanding TKT/IWS will respond to the need for immediate additional support for ākonga with wellbeing and behaviour needs while work on our broader system level response to promote positive behaviour in schools is completed. This includes work on the review of interventions for students with the highest level of learning support needs, the update of the Rules and Guidelines on Physical Restraint, and the review of Stand Downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions.
10. 9(2)(f)(iv) 
11. We will monitor the allocation of ākonga to the additional spaces in TKT/IWS at a regional level as well as the number of active cases and cases to date within the financial year, demographic data, funding provided directly to schools for ākonga wraparound support plans, and ākonga outcome data. We will provide a briefing to update the Minister of Education on the progress of the expansion of TKT/IWS towards the end of 2021.

Proactive Release

12. It is intended that this Education Report 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.