



Briefing Note: New Zealand Council for Educational Research Annual Report 2020/2021

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	8 th June 2022	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1289061
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Messaging seen by Communications team	N/A	Round Robin	No

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note that the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) Annual Report 2020/21 meets statutory requirements and can be presented to Parliament.

Note that this Annual Report 2020/21 was delayed due to the independent auditor completing the audit late, and this delay was not due to any lack of diligence on NZCER's part.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**

Summary

- You have just received the Annual Report for 2020/21 from NZCER.
- The document meets the statutory requirements and can be tabled. As the responsible Minister for NZCER, you would present it to Parliament 'as soon as practicable' after receiving it.
- NZCER will liaise with your office on the process and timing for tabling its Annual Report.



Tom Dibley

National Director

Evidence Data and Knowledge

09/06/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti

Associate Minister of Education

23/06/2022

Background

1. On 30 November 2020, the Minister of Education delegated to you the responsibility for the NZCER.
2. NZCER carries out or funds research, publishes reports, and otherwise disseminates information on educational topics. It aims to provide information and advice to teachers and other people concerned with education.
3. The Ministry provides advice to support your role with regards to the NZCER Act 1972 (the Act). This includes advice about making one Ministerial appointment to the NZCER Board every four years, setting the remuneration of Board members, administering the Government grant, and ensuring NZCER's Annual Report meets statutory requirements.

Statutory Requirements

4. The Act requires NZCER to provide the responsible Minister with an Annual Report on its proceedings and operations (s32). This must include financial statements and the audit report on those statements for the financial year just ended.
5. We note that NZCER's Annual Report for 2020/21 meets statutory requirements and can be tabled.
6. You are responsible for presenting the Annual Report 'as soon as practicable' after receiving it (s32).

Key points from the 2020/21 Annual Report

7. The Annual Report is late because the mandatory audit was completed behind schedule, on 14 March 2022. Audit New Zealand describes this delay as being due to an auditor shortage in New Zealand and the consequential effects of Covid-19. This is noted in the Independent Auditor's Report included in the Annual Report (page 35).
8. The Annual Report describes some of NZCER's key activities, including:
 - a. Refreshing NZCER's strategic priorities
 - b. NZCER's actions to strengthen their bicultural approach
 - c. Research centred on Climate Change
 - d. Active involvement on advisory groups such as the Curriculum Refresh Advisory Group
 - e. Evaluations of pilot projects or initiatives
 - f. Activities by Te Wāhanga, NZCER's Māori research unit
 - g. Growth of NZCER online supports and platforms

9. The annual report emphasises NZCER's work related to their three key strategic priorities:
 - a. equity
 - b. better educational outcomes for Māori learners
 - c. contributing to the future development of New Zealand's education system.
10. The annual report shows that most New Zealand schools and kura have purchased NZCER reports and other products. It provides figures on the number of reports they have published, how many page views there have been on the NZCER website, and other measures of audience reach.
11. The annual report details NZCER's current financial condition. It shows that NZCER's revenue decreased slightly from the previous financial year, net surplus almost halved, and total equity increased by about 8 percent.
12. The Ministry of Education will continue to work with NZCER staff on the scope and contributions of their research under Te Pae Tawhiti (the government grant).

Next steps

13. NZCER will liaise with your office on the process for presenting its Annual Report to Parliament.

Proactive release

14. We recommend that this Briefing 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.