



Briefing Note: Agreement to reprioritise internal funding to continue delivery of a Social and Emotional Learning in Early Years Pilot

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister for Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for Education		
Date:	02 June 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	Budget Sensitive	METIS No:	1288743
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to:

advise you that the Ministry has reprioritised internal funding of \$2.7m to continue key elements of the Social and Emotional Learning in Early Years pilot until 30 June 2023.

Summary

- As part of the Government's initial response to the *Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019*, Cabinet agreed to allocate funding of \$5.243m over 18 months to the Ministry of Education to trial:
Support [for] young children in early learning services to develop capacities for self-regulation, resilience, and social skills, and continuing until June 2021 the community partnership between the Ministry of Education and ethnic communities in Christchurch [CAB-20-MIN-0513 refers].
- The Ministry implemented a package of initiatives through to 30 June 2022 to build self-regulation, resilience and social skills in young children. This package is on track to exceed targets and reach up to 11,000 tamariki, 340 early learning services and 480 kaiako.

- Feedback received from your office in response to earlier advice (METIS 1287072) indicated your preference was for the Ministry to continue delivery of ENGAGE, The Alert Program and Incredible Beginnings for a further 12 months (Option 3).
- The Ministry has reprioritised internal funding of \$2.7m to continue the pilot for a further 12 months to inform a Budget 23 proposal.



Blythe Wood
Kaiwhakahaere Matua
Te Pae Aronui

02/06/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

03/06/2022

Background

1. Recommendation 36 of the *Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019* encourages the Government to invest in opportunities for young New Zealanders to learn about self-regulation.
2. The Government signalled its commitment to improving self-regulation skills in the early years and to implementing the recommendations of the report by funding \$5.243m over 18 months to trial and refine progress and practice tools for kaiako and the pilot of social and emotional learning (SEL) programmes for children aged 0-6 years [CAB-20-MIN-0513 refers]. This formed a key part of the initial response package to implement Recommendation 36.
3. The Ministry implemented a package of initiatives through to 30 June 2022 to build self-regulation, resilience and social skills in young children, which includes:
 - i. **piloting a scaling-up of ENGAGE**, a New Zealand developed SEL play-based programme across Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Otago Southland; and
 - ii. **testing SEL programmes The Alert Program and Incredible Beginnings** in early learning settings in order to create a strong evidence base.
4. This package is on track to exceed delivery targets and reach up to 11,000 tamariki, 340 early learning services and 480 kaiako.
5. The funding also enabled the Ministry to test and refine Kōwhiri Whakapae **practice and progress tools** to assist kaiako to deepen their understanding of SEL in early childhood, understand and respond to SEL progress, and leverage existing resources¹.
6. We consider social and emotional learning to be foundational to the achievement of the long-term wellbeing outcomes in many of the Government's priority work programmes, in particular child wellbeing, social cohesion and family violence and sexual violence prevention. Demonstrating this value to agency partners and Ministers will be key to achieving transformational change to how we fund and support the delivery of SEL in the early years.

Funding has been secured to continue a scaled-back version of the SEL pilot

7. Feedback received from your office in response to earlier advice (METIS 1287072) indicated your preference was for the Ministry to continue delivery of ENGAGE, The Alert Program and Incredible Beginnings for a further 12 months (Option 3).
8. We have reprioritised internal funding of \$2.7m to continue a scaled-back version of the pilot for a further 12 months to inform a Budget 23 proposal. This will allow for the continued delivery of ENGAGE, The Alert Program and Incredible Beginnings for a further 12 months.
9. Delivery will continue across Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Otago and Southland, Wellington, Palmerston North, Nelson and Hawkes Bay. It will retain and further upskill newly trained facilitators and occupational therapists until 30 June 2023.

¹ Funding to continue Kōwhiri Whakapae is being sought separately via reprioritisation of internal budget and is being considered by the Curriculum and Assessment Change Governance Board.

Next Steps

10. Over the next 12 months we will provide you with more advice about social and emotional learning in the early learning sector, including finalised results of the evaluations of the pilot.

Proactive Release

11. We recommend that this Briefing Note is proactively released redacting all references to future Budget bids .