



## Briefing Note: Meeting with the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	1 June 2023	<b>Priority:</b>	High – for a meeting on 7 June
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1303741
<b>Drafter:</b>	9(2)(a)	<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 7 June, from 4.30-5.00pm to be held at your office.

### 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 have asked to meet with you to discuss the following:
  - a. Follow up on the key work programmes between the Ministry of Education and FIANZ;
  - b. Ministry guidance on developing community resources for the education sector.
3. A key work programme update that you may wish to share with FIANZ relates to a Cabinet decision to continue funding one of the three Social and Emotional Learning initiatives (ENGAGE).
4. Jennifer Fraser, Group Manager, Te Pou Kaupapahere will be available to attend if needed.

## Proactive Release

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1. agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / Disagree



Jennifer Fraser  
**Group Manager**  
**Te Pou Kaupapahere**

01/06/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Minister of Education**

06/06/2023

## 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 of Education (the Ministry) has had ongoing conversations with FIANZ, 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.
5. Members of the Ministry leadership team recently attended a visit to Kilbirnie mosque hosted by FIANZ.

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

6. 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.'*
7. FIANZ noted in January 2022 that it was satisfied with the progress made by the Ministry of Education towards Recommendation 36.
8. 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. Social and Emotional Learning in Early Years; and
  - c. Engagement with Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand and Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. In early June, the Ministry and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will discuss next steps for the government's RCOI response 9(2)(f)(iv)

We will provide you with further information on any progress in this area.

### **Education Review Office report**

12. FIANZ may mention the recent Education Review Office (ERO) report *Education for All Our Children: Embracing Diverse Cultures*. The report found that "learners from ethnic communities experience widespread racist bullying, which too often is not taken seriously by their school".
13. The Ministry recognises that initiatives to support the wellbeing of students must respond to students' specific needs in a way that sustains their identities, languages and cultures.

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

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14. You are meeting with FIANZ on Wednesday 7 June, from 4.30-5.00pm. The meeting will be held in person at your office.
15. There will be four FIANZ attendees at the meeting, including:
- Abdur Razzaq, FIANZ RCOI Chairperson
  - Ibrar Sheikh, FIANZ President
  - Rehanna Ali, Islamic Women Council of New Zealand Co-Founder and FIANZ Social Cohesion Lead
  - Dr. Jalal Mohammed, Society of Muslim Educators of AotearoaNZ.
16. 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. Ministry guidance on developing community resources for the education sector.
17. 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 programme updates**

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#### **Community Learning Hubs**

18. 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, Palmerston North, Wellington and Dunedin. The hubs have received positive feedback from both attendees and independent evaluations. 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.

19. Budget 2022 provided \$6.411m to maintain the Community Learning Hubs, fund an evaluation of the model and establish a permanent Community Partnerships team to coordinate delivery of the hubs.

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

20. The social inclusion package also funded a pilot scheme that involved the trialling of three programmes aimed to foster self-regulation, resilience and social and emotional competencies in young children.
21. Following this pilot, Cabinet has agreed to continue funding the ENGAGE programme from June 2023 to June 2027 through the Emerging Priorities Fund, at a total cost of \$19.7m. This funding will expand ENGAGE to around 1,830 early learning services by 2027. This announcement was made publicly in April by Associate Minister Jo Luxton.

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

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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.
23. We understand this may also mean that FIANZ already have some resources they are wanting to distribute to schools for which they might be seeking funding. It is unlikely we would be able to prioritise the printing and distributing at this time.

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

24. The Ministry has conversations 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.
  - Culturally appropriate counselling services for children and young people in schools.
25. 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***

26. The engagement phase for the Refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum is ongoing to ensure that Te Mātaiaho, the refreshed curriculum framework, is inclusive of all ākonga and reflects the aspiration of the diversity of NZ communities.
27. On 13 May, FIANZ held a joint community engagement hui with Te Poutāhū in relation to the Curriculum Refresh with 45 members from the Muslim education community (school leaders, teachers and academics). This was a follow up workshop to one held in November 2022, which was positively acknowledged by the community.
28. The group were able to see where their previous feedback had been incorporated onto Te Mātaiaho. We received positive feedback about the how they are seeing their community and learners reflected in Te Mātaiaho. For example, feedback from attendees included:  
  
*A framework that gives effect to Te Tiriti is also beneficial for all ākonga, not just Māori, to see themselves in the document and to succeed as Muslim. More ākonga using their own language or ethnic languages in school, especially in greetings, builds from more use of Te Reo or Pasifika languages.*
29. We received some helpful feedback suggestions, particularly focused around including a spiritual component of wellbeing, as reflected in Te Whare Tapa Wha.
30. FIANZ and attendees at the hui are very eager to have ongoing engagement and are particularly interested in the contributing to the implementation of the curriculum and professional learning support areas.

### **Next Steps**

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31. 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**

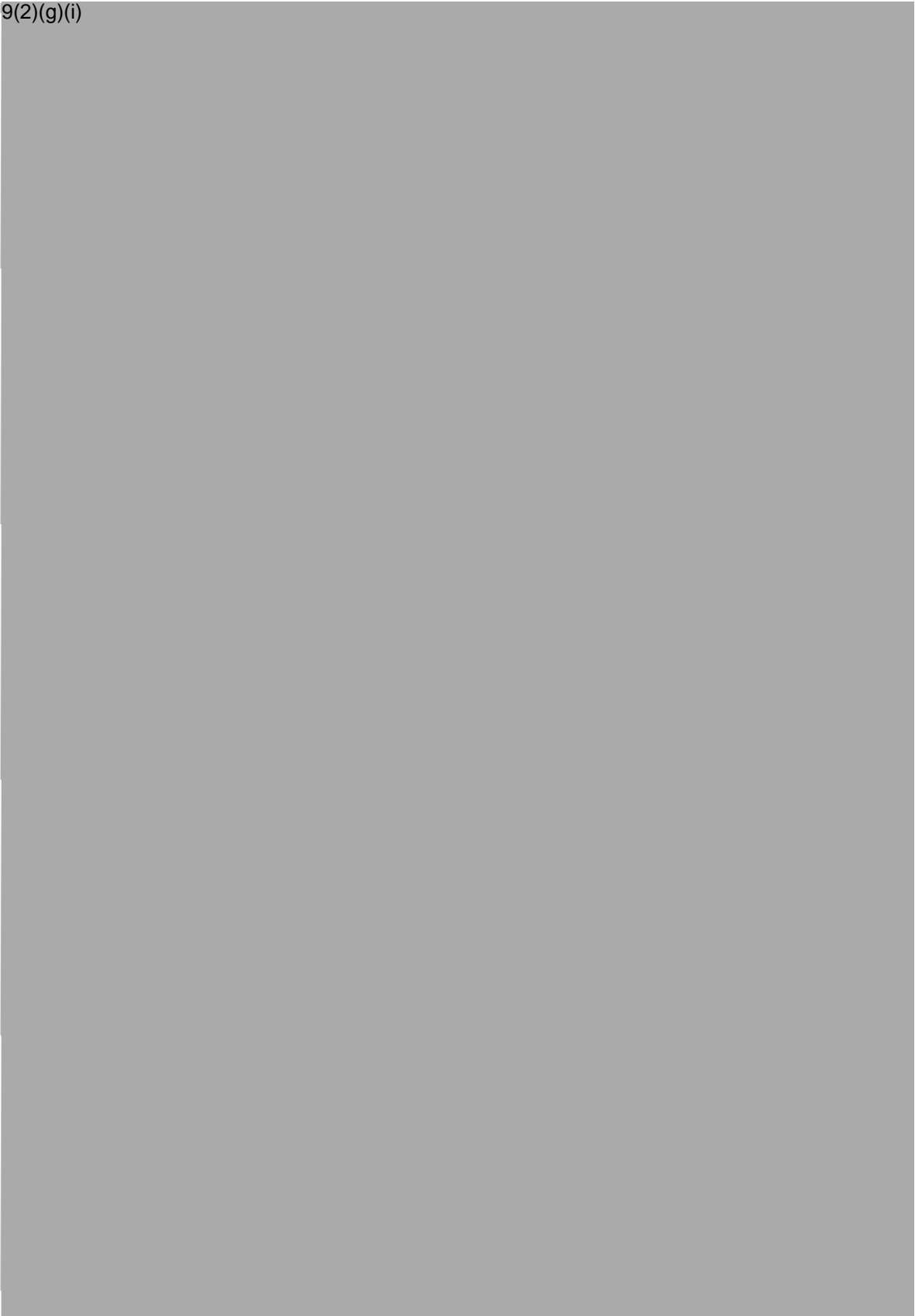
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#### **Annex 1: Talking points**

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