



## Briefing Note: Establishing a Curriculum Advisory Group for both English and Māori mediums

<b>To:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	5 March 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to jointly:

- **Note** the proposed approach for the establishment of a Curriculum Advisory Group to help the Ministry enhance the collective impact of the curriculum work programme – across the breadth of Te Whāriki, Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and the New Zealand Curriculum.

**Noted**

### Summary

- The Kōrero Mātauranga highlighted a clear need for the Ministry of Education to provide trusted curriculum leadership, through more genuine interaction with the education sector, ensuring the national curricula meet the needs of all parts of the education system (from early learning to senior secondary schooling, in both Māori and English-medium).
- The Ministry intends to partner with experts from across the breadth of the education pathways to establish an expert Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG). It is intended that the CAG be established ahead of the wider Ministry redesign work<sup>1</sup> to ensure we incorporate sector curriculum expertise and advice into of the curriculum work programme (particularly the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum, Te Marautanga o

<sup>1</sup> As agreed by the Government in the Reform of Tomorrow's Schools [CAB-20-MIN-0376 refers].

Aotearoa, and the implementation of Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories curriculum content).

- The Ministry has sought feedback from peak bodies and Te Rāngai Reo Māori group about the proposed approach for establishing the CAG. Responses have been generally supportive from peak bodies. However Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa (TRN) expressed early concern about the establishment of a single group comprising curriculum expertise across both Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and the New Zealand Curriculum (rather than discrete bodies for English and Māori mediums).
- It is our intention to establish a single CAG to best understand and enhance the collective impact of the curriculum work programme – across both English and Māori mediums. This is because the CAG will provide advice about how learners and educators experience New Zealand's curriculum system as a whole – including those learners transitioning between mediums. In this context, the advice of the CAG would necessarily represent the interests of all parts of the education system from early learning to senior secondary in both Māori and English-medium – across all curriculum documents.
- It is, however, acknowledged that there remains a need for equitable emphasis on mātauranga Māori in curriculum design and implementation as an important priority. Accordingly, it is the Ministry's intention to simultaneously establish a rōpū whakaruruhau to provide advice to the Ministry on mātauranga Māori in curriculum. The establishment of Te Rōpū Whakaruruhau will not limit the scope of the advice of the CAG, particularly the role of CAG in relation to Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Instead, the work of Te Whakaruruhau will supplement CAG's advice by providing an additional depth of expert knowledge in mātauranga Māori in curriculum.
- The CAG will not replace the need for other advisory groups who engage with specific learning pathways and curriculum priorities. These groups may support the formulation of the CAG's advice as well as offer the sector and wider communities' opportunities to engage deeply in the curriculum work programme, including experts in mātauranga Māori.
- We will seek expressions of interest from proven curriculum experts (both academic and practitioner) to ensure that we bring the right people and breadth of knowledge, including in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori.

  
Ellen MacGregor-Reid  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Early Learning and Student Achievement**

05/03/2021

  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

9/3/2021

  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education**

21/03/2021

## Background

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1. The Kōrero Mātauranga highlighted a clear need for the Ministry of Education to provide trusted curriculum leadership, through more genuine interaction with the education sector, ensuring the national curricula meet the needs of all parts of the education system (from early learning to senior secondary schooling, in both Māori and English-medium).
2. As a result of work done through the Early Learning Action Plan, Curriculum, Progress and Achievement work programme, NCEA Review and the Review of Tomorrow's Schools we now have a comprehensive curriculum work programme to strengthen the national curricula and their delivery. This includes the recently announced refresh of the national curriculum for schooling, and a range of other actions to improve teaching and learning for all ākonga as the progress through early learning and schooling.
3. The Ministry intends to partner with recognised experts and practitioners from across the breadth of the education pathways to establish an expert Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG). It is intended that the CAG be established ahead of the wider Ministry redesign work<sup>2</sup> to ensure we incorporate sector curriculum expertise and advice into early implementation of the curriculum work programme (particularly the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum, Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, and the implementation of Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories curriculum content).

## Purpose of CAG

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4. The CAG will strengthen the Ministry's national curriculum leadership by taking a strategic view of the collective impact of the curriculum work programme and providing advice about how learners and educators experience Aotearoa's curriculum system. The CAG's advice will draw on innovative research and on-the-ground knowledge to enhance the Ministry's design work, as well as build the sector's collective ownership of, and confidence in, our national curriculum and the curriculum work programme.
5. The CAG will also serve to include diverse voices from across the education system into the curriculum work programme to strengthen our focus on:
  - equitable outcomes for all ākonga;
  - giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
  - the rights of the child.
6. The CAG's core role is to provide expert advice to the Ministry on the direction of key aspects of the Ministry's curriculum work programme, as well as areas where additional or strengthened curriculum support may be required to inform ongoing curriculum improvement.
7. The CAG will do this by:
  - working collaboratively with the Ministry;

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<sup>2</sup> As agreed in the Government's Tomorrow's Schools review "Final Decisions" [CAB-20-MIN-0376 refers].

- accessing and sharing innovative research and best-practice insights about curriculum in Aotearoa (including international evidence);
  - identifying and communicating practitioner insights about, and needs for, curriculum in Aotearoa;
  - championing the curriculum work programme; and
  - interfacing, as and where needed, with various working groups across the curriculum work programme.
8. The CAG will need to collectively hold both broad and deep curriculum knowledge and expertise across the breadth of education pathways. This includes:
- Te Marautanga o Aotearoa
  - The New Zealand Curriculum
  - Te Whāriki
  - Te Whāriki a te Kōhanga Reo
  - Mātauranga and Te Ao Māori
  - Te Reo Māori
  - Experiential ('lived') experience of curriculum in action – e.g. successes, failures and insights
  - Ākonga Māori in English-medium settings
  - Inclusive education
  - He Taimaiti Hei Raukura
  - Pacific education

#### Early feedback from Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa

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9. The Ministry has sought feedback from peak bodies and Te Rāngai Reo Māori group about the proposed approach for establishing the CAG. Responses have been generally supportive from peak bodies. However, Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa (TRN) expressed early concern about the establishment of a single group comprising curriculum expertise across both Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and the New Zealand Curriculum (rather than discrete bodies for English and Māori mediums).
10. It remains our intention to establish a single CAG to best understand and enhance the collective impact of the curriculum work programme – across both English and Māori mediums. The CAG would provide advice about how learners and educators experience Aotearoa's curriculum system as a whole – including those learners transitioning between mediums. The advice of the CAG would then represent the interests of all parts of the education system from early learning to senior secondary in both Māori and English-medium.
11. The CAG will not replace the need for other advisory groups who engage with specific learning pathways and curriculum priorities. These groups may support the formulation of the CAG's advice as well as offer the sector and wider communities' opportunities to engage deeply in the curriculum work programme, including experts in mātauranga Māori.

## Te Rōpū Whakaruruhau

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12. While the CAG will require broad and deep curriculum expertise, including in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, there remains a need for particular and equitable emphasis on mātauranga Māori in curriculum design and implementation. Accordingly, it is the Ministry's intention to simultaneously establish a rōpū whakaruruhau to provide advice to the Ministry on mātauranga Māori and te reo Māori me ōna tikanga in a curriculum whole-of-system context.
13. While Te Rōpū Whakaruruhau will need to directly interface with the CAG on particular issues, the establishment of this group will not limit the scope of the advice of the CAG, particularly the role of CAG in relation to Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Instead, the work of Te Rōpū Whakaruruhau will supplement the advice of the CAG by providing an additional depth of expert knowledge in mātauranga Māori in curriculum.

## Next steps

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14. Sourcing the right sets of knowledge and capabilities across the CAG is a critical condition for the success of our curriculum work programme. The Ministry will shortly be approaching the broader schooling and early learning sector to advise of the opportunity to participate as expert members of the CAG. We will also be reaching out directly to peak bodies, Te Rāngai Reo Māori networks, higher education institutions and other key sector partners to seek their support in promoting this opportunity broadly.
15. We will seek expressions of interest from proven curriculum experts (both academic and practitioner) to ensure that we bring the right people and breadth of knowledge, including in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori. We will provide you with updates as this appointments process evolves. I also invite you to advise of your preferred level of involvement in making any associated announcements.