



Briefing Note: Curriculum Advisory Group | inaugural hui 16-17 March

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	10 March 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1268526
Drafter:	Tim Grgec	DDI:	+64 4-463 8030
Key Contact:	Ellen MacGregor-Reid	DDI:	+64 4-463 8006
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with the confirmed agenda for the inaugural hui of the Curriculum Advisory Group on 16-17 March 2022. It also provides you with background information and proposed talking points to help you prepare for your agenda item.

Summary

- After several COVID-19 related delays over 2021, I am happy to confirm that the inaugural Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG) hui will take-place on 16-17 March 2022. Given the difficulty in organising an in-person meeting safely, we have decided to hold the hui virtually.
- The principal focus for this inaugural hui is establishing trust and connection, both within the CAG as well as with the Ministry. The agenda focusses on collaboratively developing the CAG's kaupapa, role and purpose (see Annex 1).
- Sarah Martin, CAG Chair, and I, have invited you to attend from 12.30-1.00pm on Wednesday 16 March, alongside Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education. We believe it is crucial that we demonstrate alignment in our vision for curriculum, assessment and pedagogy in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is also an important opportunity to meet and welcome members and to discuss your aspirations for the CAG's mahi. Some suggested talking points are included for your consideration (see Annex 2).

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- a. **Note** that the inaugural CAG hui on 16 to 17 March 2022 is now taking place online;

Noted

- b. **Note** the agenda for the inaugural hui (Annex 1);

Noted

- c. **Note** the talking points included in preparation for your kōrero with the CAG (Annex 2);
and

Noted

- d. **Agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / Disagree

Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

10/03/2022

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

13/03/2022

Background

We are excited to finally get this important mahi underway

1. We have been working since March 2021 to establish the Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG). The Ministry worked hard to select fourteen members with the right knowledge, capabilities and dynamic to mahitahi effectively across the breadth of the curriculum pathways. Sarah Martin, Principal of Stonefields School, was selected as Chair.
2. After several COVID-19 related delays over 2021, the inaugural CAG hui will take place on 16-17 March 2022. Given the difficulty in organising an in-person meeting safely, we have decided to hold the hui virtually.

Whakapapa

3. The CAG represents an important step forward in the response to decisions about the Tomorrow's Schools Review, particularly the establishment of Te Poutāhū | The Curriculum Centre. The CAG, according to the Taskforce, could provide the Ministry with "cutting edge research, review[s] of progress and critique, and suggestions for development and prioritisation."¹ The CAG will play a key role in helping us to create "a much clearer and larger critical mass of expertise that leads, develops and supports curriculum development and delivery."²
4. The CAG will provide the Ministry with an independent system critique on curriculum, assessment, learning and pedagogy. At present, while we have several advisory and reference groups already working, these are focused on specific projects, programmes or priorities. The CAG, however, will take a broader strategic view of the curriculum work programme.
5. The group's composition illustrates our commitment to work with the sector in continued partnership. The CAG presents a unique opportunity to cohere a body of experts from a variety of teaching and learning contexts. Each member brings their own specialised experience and vision for educational equity and excellence.
6. The CAG comprises of qualified and respected experts holding 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
 - Ākonga Māori in English-medium settings
 - He Taimaiti Hei Raukura
 - Pacific education

¹ [Our Schooling Futures, Stronger Together | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātitini](#), p 83.

² [Supporting all schools to Succeed: Reform of Tomorrow's Schools System](#), p. 2.

Membership

7. Below is the finalised list of our 14 CAG members. We aimed to strike a balanced representation across the full breadth of curriculum pathways and mediums. Each candidate brings strong and relevant expertise – often in more than one of the above priority areas.
8. The 14 CAG members are as follows:

Sarah Martin (Chair)	Principal Stonefields School, Auckland
Erana Haerewa	Head Teacher, Te Puna Reo O Puhi Kaiti
Alexandra Gunn	Professor, University of Otago
Melini Fasavalu	Principal, Waimahia Intermediate, Auckland
David Fa'avae	Lecturer, University of Waikato
Donovan Farnham	Leader of bilingual pathways, Pasadena Intermediate
Āwhina Gray	Education contractor, Gray & Gray Associates
Charles Rolleston	Kaihautū Māori, Evaluation Associates
Claire Sinnema	Associate Professor, University of Auckland
Tahau Thompson	Leader of curriculum, St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton
Amanda Picken	Deputy Principal, Wellington East Girls' College
Heather McRae	Principal, Auckland Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland
Lesley Rameka	Senior Research Fellow at the University of Waikato Division of Education
Virginia Crawford,	Principal, Fraser High School, Hamilton

Building a strong foundation through kōrero

9. The CAG's inaugural hui presents a crucial opportunity for CAG members, both individually and collectively, to establish positive ways of working – including how we, as the Ministry, support their role.
10. Sarah Martin, CAG Chair, and I, have invited you to attend for part of day one, alongside Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education. We believe it is crucial that we demonstrate alignment in our vision for curriculum, assessment and pedagogy in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is also an great opportunity for you both to meet and welcome members and to discuss your aspirations for the CAG's mahi.

11. As above, the focus on the inaugural hui is on *connection* (between CAG members, the Ministry and wider government – and with their areas of expertise across the system). As a result, the intention is for the agenda item to form a kōrero/dialogue with CAG members rather than a formal address.
12. Some suggested talking points are included for your consideration (see Annex 2). The intention of the item is to put on the table your expectations, your hopes for the CAG and the wider curriculum and assessment context, as well as any fears you may have or obstacles you see.
13. There are some challenges with running a group of this nature because, while there is a breadth of diverse expertise, members have also been selected for the *depth* of their expertise – they are thought leaders in their own contexts (this may be within particular curriculum documents or other specialist areas). As the CAG's role is to adopt a whole-of-system view, and strive to confront 'gnarly' issues across the pathways, this inaugural hui will require us to share this expectation and set up the CAG to achieve this.

Next Steps

14. We can supply any further information you may need. Otherwise, we look forward to welcoming you into the hui from 12.30-1.00pm on Wednesday 16 March .

Annexes

Annex 1: Talking points

Annex 2: Meeting agenda 16-17 March 2022

Annex 1: Talking points

Context

15. Sarah Martin, CAG Chair, has requested that you and the Secretary for Education, Iona Holsted, attend the same session on day one of the inaugural CAG hui to share with members your “hopes and fears” for the group.
16. We have provided some talking points below which may assist with this. However, the intention is for the agenda item to form a kōrero/dialogue with CAG members rather than a formal speech.
17. The focus on the inaugural hui is on connection (between CAG members, the Ministry and wider government). We hope the CAG will have develop a shared sense of purpose, vision and kaupapa following this hui.

Key Messages

18. A rich and connected curriculum is a taonga we must share with all ākonga. As I outlined last year when I announced a five-year programme to refresh the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, “learners want to learn from a curriculum that is meaningful to them and their whānau.”
19. A well-designed, coherent curriculum system which creates high expectations is one of the most important ways of supporting the education sector to make teaching and learning responsive, engaging and rewarding. That is the experience we believe all ākonga are entitled to in Aotearoa New Zealand.
20. I am delighted to be able to attend today in support of the Ministry’s aspirations for enhancing coherence across curricula and pathways. Our system must work for all learners, in all settings – throughout their lives.
21. The establishment of Te Poutāhū | The Curriculum Centre, within Te Mahau (previously ESA) represents a milestone and an opportunity. It is a signal of our shared commitment to improving curriculum and assessment, and a launching point for a journey into new ways of working across the motu.
22. In this context, it’s hard not to see the CAG as a critical change agent. Working in partnership with the Ministry, alongside other expert advisory groups and boards, your advice and thought leadership will help the Ministry get this right, ensuring our national curriculum meets the needs of all ākonga both for now, and in the future.
23. I am deeply impressed by the calibre of knowledge and expertise in this group. Each of you brings a depth of experience, expertise and vision for our education system.
24. I look forward to seeing these changes in action and wish you the best of luck over the next two days, as you seek to establish a strong foundation upon which to build, hand in hand with the Ministry, a place from which to make real change.
25. I look forward to hearing more.

