



Briefing Note: Background for meeting with Melinda Webber and Katie Fitzpatrick

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| To: | Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education | | |
| Date: | 22 March 2022 | Priority: | Medium |
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| Messaging seen by Communications team: | No | Round Robin: | No |

Purpose of Report

This paper supports you to attend a meeting with Melinda Webber and Katie Fitzpatrick, scheduled for 30 March 11.30am-12pm. You requested this meeting to discuss relationships and sexuality education and mental health education.

Summary

- On Wednesday 30 March you are meeting with Professor Melinda Webber and Dr Katie Fitzpatrick to discuss relationships and sexuality education and mental health education.
- The Ministry of Education is working with Prof Webber and Dr Fitzpatrick on a range of resources to support the delivery of relationships and sexuality education and mental health education. Katie in particular is a strong advocate for professional learning and development for teachers and kaiako teaching health and physical education.
- The delivery of relationships and sexuality education and mental health education by teachers and kaiako is being supported by a range of curriculum resources, frontline curriculum supports and professional learning and development opportunities.
- Pauline Cleaver, Associate Deputy Secretary Curriculum, Pathways and Progress will be available to attend the meeting if needed.

Proactive Release

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

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree.**



Tipene Chrisp
Te Puna Kaupapahere | Policy

22/03/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

27/03/2022

Background

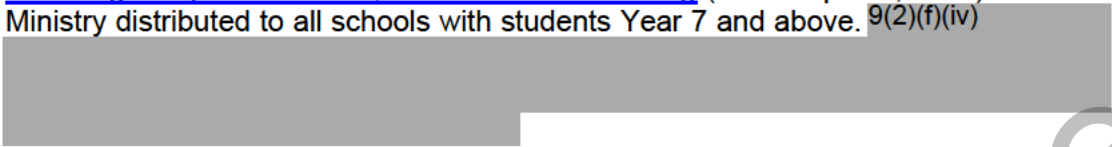
1. On 7 March 2022, you delivered a speech to the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools conference about the impacts of the pandemic on wellbeing, an update on the curriculum refresh and the future of mental health education [METIS 1280997 refers].
2. Following the conference, you requested a meeting with Professor Melinda Webber and Dr Katie Fitzpatrick to discuss relationships and sexuality education, mental health and wellbeing in both English and Māori medium education settings.
3. Melinda and Katie were also speakers at the conference. Katie presented on their behalf on the topic of *Guiding Mental Health Education in Schools: He mana tō te Tamaiti*, including:
 - a. exploring the new Ministry of Education national curriculum policy for mental health education in years 1-13 and its implications for schools;
 - b. implementing a whole school approach to mental health education based on he mana tō te tamaiti; and
 - c. centralising the mental health education curriculum.
4. Katie was the lead writer involved in the development of the refreshed *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines released in 2020 and she and Melinda co-wrote the forthcoming *Mental Health Education* guidelines (due for publication in the second half of 2022)

Professor Melinda Webber

5. Professor Melinda Webber (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whakaue) is Te Tumu, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Auckland. She has a background in teaching and was a Fulbright/Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga scholar.
6. Her current research is focused on adolescent social psychology, racial ethnic identity construction, Māori gifted learners, Māori student success, qualitative research methodologies and Māori research approaches.
7. She was in the writing group for the 2020 [Relationships and Sexuality Education](#) guidelines. Melinda is a lead writer, along with Dr Katie Fitzpatrick, on the *Mental Health Education* guidelines that the Ministry is developing.
8. Melinda created the Mana Model methodology, a strengths-based model developed for use in schools, alongside Dr Angus Macfarlane in 2020. This is used in the *Mental Health Education* guidelines and presents five key forms of mana that help ākonga thrive at school.

Dr Katie Fitzpatrick

9. Dr Katie Fitzpatrick is Head of School of Curriculum and Pedagogy in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Auckland. Her research and teaching are focused on health education, physical education, sexuality education, critical pedagogy and critical ethnography.
10. Katie has a background as a secondary school teacher of Health and Physical Education in South Auckland. She is currently running a postgraduate course on [Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools](#).

11. Katie was the lead writer on the 2020 *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines. Melinda and herself are the lead writers on the *Mental Health Education* guidelines.
12. Katie is one of the authors of [*Mental health education and hauora: Teaching interpersonal skills, resilience and wellbeing*](#) (NZCER press, 2018) which the Ministry distributed to all schools with students Year 7 and above. 9(2)(f)(iv)

13. Katie is currently involved in the advisory group for the refresh and development of curriculum level teaching and learning classroom resources to support the 2020 *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines. This piece of work has just begun and is being undertaken by Cognition Education in contract with the Ministry.
14. The Ministry is working with Katie on ideas for further resources to support the *Mental Health Education* guides. Katie most recently met with Ministry officials on Monday 14 March to discuss the *Mental Health Education* guidelines and supporting resources for them.

Delivery of Relationships and Sexuality Education and Mental Health Education

Resources to support curriculum delivery

Mental Health Education resources

15. The *Te Oranga Mauri Guidelines* are a te reo Māori holistic wellbeing document that includes Te Oranga Hinengaro (mental health), designed to align with *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* and *Te Tamaiti Hei Raukura*. These guidelines, intended primarily for use in kua Kaupapa Māori, will support the development of emotionally safe environments that support the practice of ako. They will create rich learning opportunities that are iwi taketake based that will aid the learning pathway of ākonga.
16. *Mental Health Education: A guide for teachers, leaders and board of trustees* is a curriculum guidance resource being developed to support the delivery of mental health education aligned with *The New Zealand Curriculum* for schools. This resource, intended primarily for English medium schools, will support whole-school approaches to strengthening learning programmes in mental health education.
17. These two volumes, *The Mental Health Education Guidelines* and *Te Oranga Mauri Guidelines* will be released together in the second half of 2022. While the settings and knowledge bases are different across the two sectors, kaiako and reo Māori teachers may use one or both volumes in their planning and teaching.

Relationships and Sexuality Education resources

18. In the next few weeks, a suite of relationships and sexuality education resources will be launched [METIS 1272231 refers]. The resources were developed by the Ministry of Education in partnership with universities, NGOs, teachers, and akōnga. These resources have been designed for teachers to help them unpack the *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines and include planning tools, frequently queried topics, lesson plans, an interactive module to upskill on the issues around pornography, period

education resources, and books designed to help teachers support our Rainbow akōnga. Katie has been involved in reviewing many of these products for the Ministry.

19. Hardcopies will be sent directly to schools and kura, as well as being available on 'Down the Back of the Chair' from the Ministry, and the digital resources will be available on the refreshed Health and Physical Education Online website, which will go live on launch day. The new resources include:
- a. *Te Ira Tangata*, created by Te Whāriki Takapou, a sexuality resource designed to meet the needs of kura in relation to topics like puberty, responsibility, body sovereignty, attraction and romance, and respectful relationships in te reo Māori;
 - b. *Waiwhero: He Whakahirahiratanga o te Ira Wahine: A Celebration of Womanhood*, written by Ngāhuia Murphy (Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana, Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu) has been purchased by the Ministry of Education and provides an te ao Māori perspective on menstruation, relationships, and the importance of whakapapa;
 - c. Effective practice showcase videos and teaching and learning resources for *Relationships and Sexuality Education*, and a specific module on pornography; and
 - d. Links to the InsideOUT collection of resources designed to support schools and kura to foster inclusive learning environments, with a focus on rainbow inclusion.

Frontline support for curriculum delivery

20. The Curriculum Lead service has 38 curriculum leads located in regional offices. Curriculum leads partner with teachers and kaiako in early learning services, kōhanga reo, schools and kura to weave together national curriculum with their local contexts and the diverse aspirations of learners and their whānau. This will deliver a high-quality local curriculum supportive of the wellbeing of learners and their whānau.
21. The Curriculum Leads will support the implementation of the *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines, *Te Ira Tangata*, *Mental Health Guidelines*, *Te Oranga Mauri* and the wellbeing of ākonga, by partnering with teachers and kaiako to guide them through and make sense of the resources. They will also provide sector feedback and insights to the Ministry of Education to ensure future wellbeing resources are fit for purpose.
22. The Curriculum Leads assist with building the capability of teachers and kaiako so ākonga experience learning that improves their wellbeing. The service has been designed to respond to local contexts and wellbeing needs. An example of this support was the large regional workshop in Canterbury with multiple agencies where they unpacked the intent of the *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines, highlighted the resources and curriculum supports that go alongside the guidelines, and gave localised support relevant to the uniqueness of the kura and schools within the region.

Professional Learning and Development

23. Professional Learning and Development (PLD) is available to schools and kura throughout Aotearoa.

24. Schools and kura are able to request support for relationships and sexuality education, mental health and wellbeing under the local curriculum design, cultural capability and marau ā-kura priorities.

Consent education in schools and kura

25. Following the announcement that consent education will be mandatory in all schools in Australia from 2023, there have been renewed calls¹ for the New Zealand Government to mandate consent education in schools and kura.
26. While the Health and Physical Education learning area of *The New Zealand Curriculum* is compulsory in years 1-10, the *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidelines and supporting resources are optional for teachers and kaiako. The *Relationships and Sexuality Education* guidance emphasises the importance of age-appropriate consent education throughout the entire schooling pathway. The resources provide improved and increased support for teachers and kaiako.
27. You will be aware that under the Education and Training Act 2020 Boards must consult with school communities at least every two years on their draft health curriculum, which should influence what will be included in the health and physical curriculum in that school. Parents and caregivers also have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of relationships and sexuality education.
28. You have previously indicated that consent education would be looked at as part of the refresh process the Health and Physical Education learning area in 2023 (for in-school delivery in 2024).

¹ For example: <https://www.1news.co.nz/2022/03/06/calls-for-sexual-consent-education-to-be-compulsory-in-nz-schools/>