



## Education Report: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools 2020 Report – Reporting Options

<b>To:</b>	Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>CC:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education) Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)		
<b>Date:</b>	27 May 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1260038
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

As Minister of Education, you are legislatively required to present in Parliament the 2020 report on the performance of the compulsory schools' sector, *Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools 2020 (Ngā Kura)*, by 30 September 2021.

The purpose of this report is to:

**Seek** your agreement on the recommended option for *Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools' 2020* report.

### Summary

- 1 Ngā Kura, also known as the Schools' Sector Report is an annual report that provides a broad overview on the progress and performance of the compulsory schooling sector.
- 2 Over the years, the Minister of Education has exercised discretion over the contents of the report, so long as it satisfies the legal requirements set out in section 620(2) and clause 17 of schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
- 3 This paper presents two reporting options, and we seek your agreement on the recommended option.
- 4 Following your direction on the approach to the 2020 report, we will provide you with a draft copy of the report by end of August for review. We will work with your office on

the communications plan for the release, and organise the presentation of the report. The report will be publicly released on the Education Counts website by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, when it is required to be presented in the house.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **Note** that as Minister of Education you are legislatively required to present in Parliament the *Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools 2020 report* by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Noted**

- b. **Note** a draft report will be submitted to your office for review by end of August, and we will work with your office to develop the communications plan and organise the presentation of the report.

**Noted**

- c. **Agree** on one of the following reporting options:

Option 1 – Use the overall format of the 2019 report and expand on the contents with a chapter each on the effects of and response to COVID-19 and the key education strategies.

**Agree/Disagree**

Option 2 (recommended) - Format the report in line with the objectives of the National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP). There would be one chapter for each of the 5 objectives, together covering student wellbeing, attendance and attainment, removing barriers to education, strengthening outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners and those with learning support needs, teacher supply and transitions to further study and the workforce. Additional chapters would cover school planning and reporting, the effects of and response to COVID-19, the key education strategies and school property resourcing.

**Agree/Disagree**

- d. **Provide feedback** on any areas of particular interest to be included or highlighted in the report.

**Comment**

The 'additional chapters' seem unnecessary as all of these topics fit under the 5 key objectives in the NELP/TES.

In the future it would be good to see the ECE and Tertiary sector reports incorporated into one whole of sector report.

- e. **Proactively release** this Education Report as it relates to the planning for the 2020 New Zealand Schools' report, which will be publicly available in September 2021.

**Release/**Not release



Alexander Brunt  
Deputy Secretary  
Evidence, Data and Knowledge

25/5/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

28/6/2021



## Background

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- 1 As Minister of Education, you are legislatively required to prepare and present to Parliament a report on the performance of the compulsory schools' sector by the 30<sup>th</sup> September each year in accordance with section 620(2) and clause 17 of schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020. This information is captured in the *Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools* report.
- 2 Section 620(2) broadly sets out the requirements for the report. In the past the Minister has exercised discretion around content, as long as it meets legal requirements. Section 620(2) states the report must include the following:
  - a. the performance of the school sector;
  - b. the management performance in the school sector, including the quality of the management systems and practices in the school sector and the management of all the assets used in the school sector;
  - c. the effectiveness of the school sector in terms of educational achievement.
- 3 In addition, clause 17 of schedule 20 states the report must include a signed statement by the Secretary of Education which lists schools that have an enrolment scheme in place and how the Ministry plans to manage enrolment pressures on schools.

## Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools 2019

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- 4 The 2019 schools' report highlighted the Education Work Programme including progress and investments made in student wellbeing, teacher workforce and learning support. In addition, the report highlighted student progress and attainment, attendance and engagement, the decisions and initiatives around the NCEA reforms and the Reform of Vocational Education.
- 5 Last year we provided you with the draft report and a summary A3 for quick reference which was included as a fold-out in every hard copy.

## Options for the reporting framework

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- 6 There are two broad options for the format and contents of the 2020 schools' report. We seek your agreement on the recommended option (Option 2).

**Option 1: Use the overall format of the 2019 report and expand on the contents with a chapter each on the response to COVID-19 and the key education strategies.**

- 7 Under this option, the 2020 report will follow the same overall structure as the 2019 report, and we will simply apply 2020 data updates and commentary. This option includes key updates on the education work programme, student attendance and attainment learning support and teacher workforce, student wellbeing and resourcing and fiscal management.
- 8 The response to COVID-19 directed much of the work of the Ministry of Education during 2020 and resulted in delays to progressing some areas of the Education Work Programme as resource was poured into key areas that needed immediate strengthening. For this reason a dedicated chapter is proposed to be included in the report to provide an overview of this work.

- 9 Following on from the Education Conversation, a number of key government strategies have now been refreshed and are beginning to be implemented; Ka Hikitia, Tau Mai te Reo, the Action Plan for Pacific Education as well as the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. These strategies have begun and will continue to guide the work programme of the Ministry, for this reason a dedicated chapter is proposed to be included in the report covering the vision and direction of education under these strategies.

**Option 2 (recommended): Format the report in line with the objectives of the National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP). There would be one chapter for each of the 5 objectives, together covering student wellbeing, attendance and attainment, removing barriers to education, strengthening outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners and those with learning support needs, teacher supply and transitions to further study and the workforce. Additional chapters would cover school planning and reporting, the effects of and response to COVID-19, the key education strategies and school property resourcing.**

- 10 The updated National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) was released in 2020. The NELP directs government and education sector activities towards the actions that will make the biggest difference to learners/ākonga. Formatting the report in line with the NELP objectives would better reflect the intent and direction of the progress and performance of the Ministry and compulsory schools' sector.
- 11 Within the structure of the NELP objectives, the content of the report would continue to cover; student wellbeing, student attainment, strengthening outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners and those with learning support needs, removing barriers to education, student attendance, teacher supply and transitions to further study and the workforce.
- 12 A number of additional chapters are proposed to be included in the report, which sit outside of the NELP objectives:
- a. A separate chapter is recommended to provide an overview of the work resulting from COVID-19, as it is separate from the objectives of the NELP.
  - b. A separate chapter, highlighting the key government education strategies which have recently been refreshed and are beginning to be implemented, these include; Ka Hikitia, Tau Mai te Reo, the Action Plan for Pacific Education as well as the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. These strategies will continue to guide the work programme of the Ministry alongside the NELP and are important to the context of the rest of the report.
  - c. A separate introductory chapter on school planning and reporting, which will frame the responsibilities of schools under the NELP, National Education Goals (NEGs) and National Administration Guidelines (NAGs).
  - d. A separate chapter on school property resourcing, which does not directly sit within the NELP, but is legislatively required for inclusion in Ngā Kura - the New Zealand Schools report.
- 13 Option 2 is more resource intensive, however this option will yield a more informative product that highlights the challenges and progress of 2020, as well as reflecting the changing education landscape as we build a system that is accessible for all learners and their whānau. For these reasons, we recommend option 2.



## Next steps

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- 14 Following your agreement to an option, we will develop the outline of the 2020 report and liaise with your office on its content. We will provide your office with a draft of the report in late August for your review and sign-off.

## Annexes

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Annex 1: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa: New Zealand Schools 2019 report

Proactively Released

Proactively Released