



BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Te Aro School to open new senior classrooms on Friday 4 June 2021

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	27 May 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1259698
Drafter:	Hone Kapa	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Roy Sye	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

- 1 This briefing note provides information to support your visit to Te Aro School on Friday 4 June 2021 at 10.30am with Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Grant Robertson.
- 2 **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree



Jann Marshall
Associate Deputy Secretary
Network and School Delivery

27/5/2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

1/1

Te Aro School (3037)

Contact Name: Sue Clement (Principal)
04 384 2860

Address: 360 The Terrace
Te Aro
Wellington

Key People

Board chairperson: Eliza Bartlett
04 384 2860

Principal: Sue Clement
principal@tearo.school.nz
04 384 2860

Ministry Official/s: Roy Sye, Director of Education for Wellington

9(2)(a)

Lisa Rangiaho

9(2)(a)

Background information about Te Aro School

Issues

Te Aro School is trying to support a growing number of families who are facing housing issues and living short term in emergency housing. The Board is planning some evening workshops for its community with a psychologist for parents, whānau and staff to learn ways to work together to support students to be more resilient. We are supporting the school and working closely with the Ministry of Social Development on the wider emergency housing work.

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
School Gender	Co-Ed
Education Medium	English
Decile	7
Electorate	Wellington Central

The July 2020 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	21	9.0
Pacific	21	9.0
Asian	49	20.9
Other	22	9.4
European/ Pākehā	113	48.3
International	8	3.4
Total	234	100

Impact of COVID-19

The school has applied for the Urgent Response Fund (URF). Two URF applications were applied for and approved:

- \$1,480 on 14 Sep 2020 for social, emotional and behavioural support
- \$1,200 on 27 April 2021 to support wellbeing to address attendance issues.

The applications were to support an individual student to transition back into the school after COVID-19 lockdown and for the whole school to learn techniques and strategies to support children to be more resilient, based on whānau feedback.

Education Review Office

Te Aro School was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2018. ERO found that:

- Student achievement information from the end of 2017 shows that most students achieve well in reading and mathematics and a large majority achieve in writing.
- Information reported by the school identifies that almost all learners who have been continually enrolled over time achieve well across the curriculum by Year 8.
- In-school disparity for Māori students in reading, writing and mathematics and for boys in literacy is an ongoing focus for improvement.
- A large number of Pacific and Asian learners successfully achieve in reading and mathematics. Raising achievement in writing for these groups is a known priority.
- There is evidence of acceleration for some students through school targets and intervention programmes. Further strengthening of school processes is required to promote acceleration for Māori across the curriculum and boys in writing to address in-school disparity.

Key strengths

- A strategic vision that is strongly focused on improving wellbeing and learning and valuing cultural diversity
- A culture of collaboration among trustees, leaders, teachers and parents that focuses on continuous improvement for teaching and learning
- Leader and teacher capability that systematically responds to students' needs, for improved outcomes.
- A long-standing use of lego/brick therapy has been implemented in the school.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

The School does not belong to a Kāhui Ako.

Visit and event information

Runsheet

A runsheet for your visit is provided below. Talking Points are provided in Annex 1.

Time	Activity
10:30am	Arrive
	Welcome from Walter Taniwha (Teacher) and students
	School waiata
	Eliza Bartlett (Board Chair) to speak
	Hon Grant Robertson to speak
	Hon Chris Hipkins to speak
	Sue Clement (Principal) to speak
	Conclude with one or two kapa haka items
11:15am	Refreshments
11:30am	Depart

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

The school opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2020 and 2021. They received \$34,500 (incl GST) in lieu of donations in 2020 and \$33,900 (incl GST) in 2021.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

The School is not eligible for the programme.

Access to Period products

Te Aro school has not yet opted into the initiative.

Learning Support Coordinators

The school does not have a Learning Support Coordinator.

Creatives in schools

Te Aro School applied for Round 2 of Creatives in Schools but was unsuccessful. They did not apply for Round 1 in 2019.

Property

We started a project at Te Aro School in 2017 originally intended to add an additional teaching space to one classroom block and to fully replace the Reading Recovery facility.

Early in the project, a structural inspection of the classroom block highlighted that it also needed to be fully replaced due to significant weathertightness and age-related issues. The scope of the project then changed to demolition of both blocks, and the construction of a new four teaching space block and separate Reading Recovery facility.

The change of scope and need to secure additional funding to increase the overall budget to 9(2)(i) impacted on the delivery timelines. However, delays were mitigated by reusing a teaching block design previously used at another school, with some design modifications tailored to the Te Aro School site.

The \$1.2m Reading Recovery hub project was completed in 2019 and the new teaching block in late 2020.

Demolition of the old buildings has been completed.

Proactive release

We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annex 1: Talking Points

- Tēnā koutou kātoa and thank you for welcoming us here today. It is a privilege for us to be here with you to officially open your teaching block for your senior students.
- I'd like to acknowledge your principal Sue Clement, Board chair Eliza Bartlett and board members.
- It's been quite a journey to get to this point – you've had some excitement along the way with the discovery of the historical Prison Well now part of your school's attractions.
- I'm sure the students were intrigued to hear that Te Aro School was built on the former site of the Terrace Gaol, constructed in 1853.
- Life in The Terrace Gaol was hard labour, hard food, and hard beds for inmates – quite different to the secure and safe environment provided at Te Aro School today.
- This surprising discovery means you have a piece of Wellington's bleak history in your backyard, which I'm sure will attract much community interest.

Te Aro School property project

- Your redevelopment journey started in 2017 with a plan to add one teaching space to a classroom block and to fully replace the Reading Recovery facility. The Reading Recovery facility was completed in 2019.
- Following a structural inspection, the decision was made to demolish and fully replace block C, including the additional teaching space. The result is this modern, fit-for-purpose learning facility, with great break out spaces and a dedicated maker space.
- You can be confident that your school can offer generations of young Te Aro School ākonga, with a range of learning needs, a quality environment in which to grow.
- The Government is committed to working with schools like yours to ensure that students have the facilities they deserve.
- This Government has made a further commitment through Budget 2021 to support all schools to succeed by investing millions more to build new schools and grow existing ones to meet demand.

Final message

- The pride you show in your school is obvious. You work hard and reap the rewards for the effort you put in.
- I hope the new building will generate even greater pride in your school and what it stands for.
- Thank you for having us here today and letting us share this exciting day.