



Briefing Note: Background and Talking Points for Meeting with Professor Ruru

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	14 May 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1258040
Drafter:	Edward Scrimgeour	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Kieran Forde	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with background information and talking points for your upcoming meeting with Jacinta Ruru and her colleagues on 18 May, 3.30-4pm, at the Beehive.

We recommend you:

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

☒ **Agree** / ☐ **Disagree**



Kieran Forde
Acting Senior Manager
Access and Participation Policy
Te Ara Kaimanawa

14/05/2021



Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education

16/05/2021

Summary

- Professor Jacinta Ruru has written to Ministers alongside a group of Māori professors to call for a *national review of universities for the purpose of committing to, and accelerating with urgency, a tertiary sector that honours te Tiriti o Waitangi*.
- You may want to invite the professors to discuss their views on the letter's recommendations to introduce a "*statement of expectations, conducting a Tiriti audit, and developing and financing an action plan to transform institutional leadership to meet the expectations of the Tertiary Education Strategy*".
- Talking points are included in Annex One.

Progress on the University of Waikato Taskforce following the Parata-Gardiner report

- The Council of the University of Waikato has agreed to the recommendations of their Taskforce which is for an indicative work programme around three outcomes:
 - Systemic and Casual Racism no longer have a place
 - Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is at the heart of the life and work of the University
 - Mātauranga Māori is treasured.
- The indicative work programme on pages 25 - 30 of the report sounds promising and all universities should be able to articulate a similar programme of work. This may be something you want to raise with the Vice Chancellors Committee. The Taskforce report is attached for your review.

Update on Taumata Aronui

- Taumata Aronui have not yet commented on the Taskforce paper but the outcomes do align with the recommendations in the Taumata Aronui paper presented to you in November last year:

9(2)(ba)(i)

- Taumata Aronui have asked Professor Linda Smith (Co-Chair of the University of Waikato Taskforce) and Professor Jacinta Ruru to peer review their vision paper on Māori Success and Tertiary Education.

Te Pūtahitanga

- You may also want to acknowledge the recently released report *Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led science-policy approach for Aotearoa New Zealand*. Professor Ruru is a co-author.

Background

1. Professor Jacinta Ruru and large group of Māori professors wrote you an open letter in September 2020 calling *“for a nation-wide review of the University tertiary sector for the purpose of committing to, and accelerating with urgency, a tertiary sector that honours te Tiriti o Waitangi”*. This followed the protected disclosure around issues at the University of Waikato.
2. Following the initial review the Māori professors wrote a second letter, reiterating their concerns and asking to meet with Ministers to:

“ask for the government’s help and leadership in issuing a statement of expectations, conducting a Tiriti audit, and developing and financing an action plan to transform institutional leadership to meet the expectations of the Tertiary Education Strategy 2020”.
3. These signatories see a critical role for Ministerial leadership as they *“have little faith that the University sector will meaningfully rise to these expectations without government intervention”*.

Summary of the Report by the University of Waikato Taskforce

4. Following the protected disclosure at the University of Waikato, the independent review by Sir Harawira Gardiner and Hon Hekia Parata recommended a Taskforce to develop a plan to address the concerns identified in their report.
5. The Taskforce is co-chaired by Professors Linda Tuhiwai Smith and Alister Jones, and their first report was released in late April. The Council of the University of Waikato has accepted the report of the Taskforce. This report identifies three key outcomes and provides some indicative high-level actions to move the university towards these outcomes:
 - a. **Systemic and Casual Racism no longer have a place** - The University of Waikato is experienced as a welcoming, inclusive and affirming environment by staff and students of all cultures, as well as tangata whenua, and where systemic racism has been dismantled and casual racism is rejected.
 - b. **Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is at the heart of the life and work of the University** - The mana of tangata whenua teaching, learning and working at the University is enhanced and the University enjoys strengthened and enriched relationships with Waikato-Tainui, the Kīngitanga, the iwi of Tauranga Moana and wider tangata whenua of Aotearoa, offering a model for other decolonisation efforts in Aotearoa and internationally.
 - c. **Mātauranga Māori is treasured** - All staff and students enjoy enhanced academic experiences and results from the weaving of mātauranga Māori through existing teaching and research approaches.
6. The actions found in the indicative work programme are significant and a serious step in the right direction. These can be found on pages 25 to 30 of the Taskforce report attached. The Taskforce acknowledges there is a long road ahead and the continued efforts of the University will need to be watched with interest.
7. There are many positive things about the process the University of Waikato has started and the structured approach the Taskforce is taking to work towards honouring te Tiriti o Waitangi. Other universities need to be able to articulate how they are meeting these expectations as well in ways appropriate for their rohe. The Taskforce paper recognised that *“other New Zealand institutions may take interest in this report but should undertake their own processes and analysis to address these significant issues”*.

8. It will be worth hearing from Professor Ruru about her thoughts on the processes laid out by the Taskforce and the external accountability her letter requested for Government overseeing a change process for honouring Te Tiriti.

Update on Taumata Aronui

9. Taumata Aronui have also identified the need for change so that the opportunities that Te Tiriti presents can be seen across tertiary education. The group is continuing to clarify their advice and have been talking with Te Pūkenga about the work being done to understand the changes it needs to make to Honour Te Tiriti.
10. Taumata Aronui have also asked Professors Linda Smith and Jacinta Ruru to peer review their paper on Māori Success and Tertiary Education. Both had specific and general feedback on the paper and the group is looking to incorporate this into their discussion paper. They are seeking further review from academics in the Wānanga sector and Te Pūkenga.
11. Taumata Aronui have not yet commented on the Taskforce paper but the outcomes do align with the ideas in their paper, 9(2)(ba)(i)
12. The Ministry is working with Wayne Ngata (as Chair) to shape up their work programme and what next steps could look like for their recommendations on:

9(2)(ba)(i)

13. The relationship between their recommendations and other work (both by agencies and significant providers) will also need to be clarified further.

Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led science-policy approach for Aotearoa

14. Professor Ruru was recently a contributing author to *Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led science-policy approach for Aotearoa New Zealand*, which calls for better alignment of the science sector with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
15. This report was released on Wednesday 28 April by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, a Centre of Research Excellence where Professor Ruru is a Co-Director. The report was partially funded by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Professor Juliet Gerrard.
16. Written by leading Māori researchers working across the Research, Science and Innovation (RSI) sector, the report seeks major changes to the way in which knowledge and evidence is used in policy and decision-making.
17. The report calls for a partnership approach with Māori to develop science policy. It states that partnership, along with better enablement of Mātauranga Māori and devolved/autonomous Māori development of Māori Research Science and Innovation (RSI) initiatives, will strengthen outcomes for Māori.

18. The report has five primary recommendations:

Short Term:

1. Develop Tiriti-based guidelines for RSI funding.
2. Appoint Māori Chief Science Advisors in key government departments.
3. Strengthen monitoring of Māori RSI investment and activity.

Medium Term:

4. Establish a mātauranga Māori Commission/Entity.
5. Develop a plan for regionally based Te Ao Māori policy hubs.

19. The report also asserts the Crown has neglected its responsibilities by not:
- a. providing clear reasons for making decisions on science policy and investment, particularly in the absence of meaningful Māori input,
 - b. evaluating the Vision Mātauranga policy,
 - c. measuring the size of the Crown's investment in Māori research, and
 - d. mapping Māori capacity/workforce in the science sector.
20. We understand that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment are planning to engage with Māori across the RSI system and commission a report on the impact of the Vision Mātauranga policy, while also investigating the potential to map Māori workforce / capacity in the RSI sector.

Next Steps

21. The Ministry is working with Taumata Aronui to clarify the next steps for their recommendations. They have a zoom hui on 10 June and are meeting again on 14 and 15 July in Wellington.
22. Ministers may want to meet with the Vice Chancellors Committee to discuss what the implications of the Taskforce report of University of Waikato are for the wider university sector.

Proactive Release

23. 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 done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex One: Talking Points

Annex Two: April 2021 Taskforce Report from the University of Waikato

Annex Three: Background on Attendees

Proactively Released

Annex three: Background on Attendees

Professor Jacinta Ruru, Professor of Law, University of Otago *Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Maniapoto*



Professor Jacinta Ruru is co-Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, and a Professor of Law at the University of Otago. Her research has focused on exploring Indigenous peoples' legal rights to own, manage and govern land and water including national parks and minerals in Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, United States, Australia and the Scandinavia countries.

She has led, or co-led, several national and international research projects including on the Common Law Doctrine of Discovery, Indigenous peoples' rights to freshwater, and multidisciplinary understandings of landscapes.

Professor Ruru was a co-editor of *Ngā Kete Mātauranga: Māori scholars at the research interface*.

Professor Meihana Durie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, Massey University *Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Raukawa Te Au ki Te Tonga, Ngāti Porou, Rongo Whakaata, Ngāi Tahu*



Professor Meihana Durie is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori at Massey University. He is an award-winning Māori public health and education scholar and holds a number of leadership roles in tikanga and Te Reo Māori for Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata and Ngāti Raukawa Te Au ki Te Tonga. He is a member of Te Kāhui Amokura.

Prior to joining Massey in 2017, he was the Health Research Council (HRC) Hohua Tutengaehe Postdoctoral Fellow. Before that he was Kaihautū/Academic Director at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, where he established Ngā Purapura and the associated Bachelor of Māori Health Promotion. He currently sits on the HRC Māori Health Committee and has been a member of several national review panels and advisory committees.

Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, Victoria University of Wellington *Tūhoe*



Professor Rawinia Higgins is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) / Tumu Ahurei of Victoria University of Wellington. She was previously the University's Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori Research) and Head of School for Te Kawa a Māui / School of Māori Studies. She is a member of Te Kāhui Amokura.

She is Toihau (Chair) of Te Taura Whiri, a member of both the Waitangi Tribunal and Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga and the Deputy-Chair of the Māori Knowledge and Development PBRF portfolio.

In 2017 she was awarded the Te Waiti award for te reo and tikanga at the Matariki awards. In 2020 she was named a Fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangi.

Professor Angus Macfarlane, Professor of Māori Research, University of Canterbury
Ngāti Whakaue



Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane is a Professor of Māori Research at the University of Canterbury (UC). His research focuses on exploring Indigenous and sociocultural imperatives that influence education and psychology. Avid about Māori advancement, he has pioneered several theoretical frameworks associated with culturally responsive approaches for professionals working in these disciplines.

In 2010 he received the Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award from the New Zealand Council for Educational Research for outstanding contributions to Māori research. In 2013 he was awarded the University of Canterbury Research Medal – the first Māori recipient and the highest honour that the UC Council can extend to its academic staff. In 2015 he received the national Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for specialist services in the field of kaupapa Māori. He is on the Māori Reference Group for the Office of the Auditor General and is Kaihautū (Senior Māori Advisor) for the New Zealand Psychological Society.

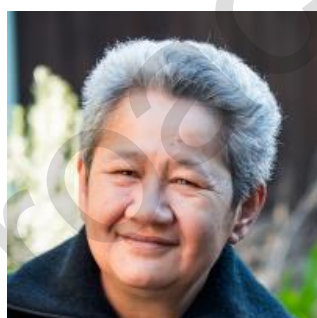
Professor Tracey McIntosh, Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Auckland
Tūhoe



Professor Tracey McIntosh, MNZM, is a Professor of Indigenous Studies and Co-Head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland. She is a former Co-Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

She has been a member of both the Welfare Expert Advisory Group and Te Uepū Hapai i te Ora - The Safe and Effective Justice Advisory Group. Her recent research focused on incarceration (particularly of Māori and Indigenous peoples) and issues pertaining to poverty, inequality, and social justice.

Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora, Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Auckland
Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Tūhoe



Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora is co-director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and a Professor of Indigenous Studies at Te Wānanga o Waipapa, the University of Auckland. She was previously Professor of Psychology and Director of the Maori & Psychology Research Unit at the University of Waikato. Her specialities are in indigenous, community, applied social psychology, ethnopsychology and Maori development.

Professor Nikora has a celebrated research and academic career, working in community, social and indigenous psychologies, with a specific focus on Māori wellbeing and self-determination. Her research has focused on Māori relational wellbeing; Māori ways of mourning; Māori traditional body modification; Maori social identities and identity development; Māori mental health and recovery; social and economic determinants of health; homelessness; and social connectedness.

Professor Nikora is a co-editor of *Ngā Kete Mātauranga: Māori scholars at the research interface*.