



BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Rowandale School for the opening
Ceremony of Samoan Language Week:
Monday 31 May 2021

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	17 May 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1259022
Drafter:	Tracy Hansen	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Corinne Peters	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

- 1 This briefing note provides information to support your visit to Rowandale School on Monday 31 May 2021 to participate in the opening ceremony for Samoan Language Week.
- 2 **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree


Jann Marshall
Associate Deputy Secretary
Network and School Delivery

17/4/2021


Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

16/5/2021

Rowandale School

Contact Name: Karl Vasau
Address: 73 Rowandale Venue
Manurewa, Auckland
9(2)(a)

Key People

Board chairperson: Kylie Cook
kyliec@rowandale.school.nz
Principal: Karl Vasau
principal@rowandale.school.nz
9(2)(a)
Other notable attendees: Reverend Victor Pouesi
Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Mangere East
Ministry Official/s: Corinne Peters
Education Manager, Auckland
9(2)(a)

Background information about Rowandale School

- 1 Rowandale School is a large multi-cultural contributing school for year 1 to 6 students in the heart of Manurewa.
- 2 The school celebrates all cultures and helps students to grow. Currently the school is made up of 18 different ethnic groupings including Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, New Zealand European, Niuean, Asian and Indian. Almost 48% of students identify as Pacific. Sixty percent of Rowandale school teaching staff are of Māori and/or Pacific descent.
- 3 We are not aware of any initiatives that the school have in place to support the promotion of the Samoan language. Rowandale School has not applied for the Pacific Education Innovation Fund.

Issues

- 4 The school is zoned, and the Principal has publicly voiced his concerns about the potential for siblings to be attending different schools.

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Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Contributing 1-6
School Gender	Co-Ed
Education Medium	English
Decile	1 A
Electorate	Manurewa

9 The March 2021 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	259	43.0
Pacific	288	47.8
Asian	41	6.8
Other	4	0.7
European/ Pākehā	10	1.7
International	0	0
Total	602	100

10 The school's vision statement is "we celebrate all cultures at our school" and "we grow our people - whakatipū o matou tangata". The school mission is "we grow our people through aroha and pride as we empower, encourage, engage each other along our path to personal excellence".

11 The school values are "participation, respect, integrity, determination and empathy". This reflects the school's focus on helping students to reach their potential in their learning and within themselves.

12 The school actively promotes and celebrates Language Weeks throughout the year, including flag raising ceremonies and celebration assemblies. Due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, the school held the opening ceremony for Tongan Language week online, with videos posted on the school website.

13 Recent activities the school has been involved with include:

- Hosting local Police Constables on 18 March. The school has a good relationship with local Police Constables and Constables and teachers actively engage with the students through play and dance.
- Performing at the Pasifika Festival on 10 April.
- Hosting a Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities holiday programme during the April holidays which helped children to improve their mathematical

and problem-solving skills. The programme was very well received and feedback from parents on the school's Facebook page was very positive.

- Hosting a meet and greet with whānau, teachers and organisations such as SKiDs (Safe Kids in Daily Supervision), Mana Health, and Social Workers in Schools on 13 April.
- 14 Rowandale School belongs to Te Kaahui Ako O Manurewa- Kāhui Ako which includes six schools. The Kāhui Ako is working to improve achievement:
- through the development and sustainment of cultural identity
 - by increasing student and whānau engagement through effective transition across Te Kaahui Ako o Manurewa
 - by developing and strengthening an integrated approach to learning through the application of S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

Impact of COVID-19

- 15 The school noted that there was anxiety in the community during and post COVID-19 restrictions. Some whānau were hesitant about their children returning to school.
- 16 The school received 9(2)(i) in 2020 for two applications for the Urgent Response Fund. This provided for a school-wide approach to improving student attendance and engagement. The funding enabled teacher aides to help students transition back to the classroom and support students with learning needs. The fund also allowed teacher release time to work with the local truancy service.

Education Review Office

- 17 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2017. ERO recommended that the board, principal, leaders, and teachers continue to use internal evaluation to guide the development of shared, school-wide strategies to improve outcomes for children whose learning requires acceleration.
- 18 Rowandale School is currently part of the Education Review Office Pilot Review.

Visit and event information

- 19 Rowandale School has provided the runsheet below. The dress code is Samoan attire.

Time	Activity
9.30- 10.30am	<p>The opening ceremony includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome / Faafeiloaiga • Anthem/s • Lotu - Reverend Victor Pouesi • Flag raising • Guest speaker – Hon Aupito William Sio • Ava Ceremony • Tatalo faaiu / Closing prayer • Tataala aloaia le Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa i Rowandale / Declare the opening
10.40-11.10am	Morning Tea in the staffroom

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

- 20 The school opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2020 and 2021.
- 21 The school will receive 9(2)(i) this year in lieu of school donations based on its current roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 22 The school is taking part in the programme. They are currently exploring a range of supplier options. They expect to begin offering lunches in Term 3 of 2021.

Access to Period products

- 23 Rowandale School has opted into the national implementation of the initiative and will be able to order products from 1 June.

Learning Support Coordinators

- 24 The school is part of Te Kaahui Ako O Manurewa, which has been allocated nine Learning Support Coordinators (LSC). One LSC is based at Rowandale School.

Creatives in schools

- 25 Rowandale School applied for Round 1 of Creatives in Schools but was unsuccessful. They did not apply for Round 2 in 2020.

Property

- 26 The school received 9(2)(i) in School Investment Package funding and invested in two permanent shade structures over the court area and playground.
- 27 We are delivering circa 9(2)(i) roll growth project of six new teaching spaces that is expected to be completed in September 2021.
- 28 It had originally been intended that at the conclusion of the project that two teaching spaces would be demolished as they were no longer required and would otherwise result in the school having an overentitlement of teaching spaces. The Principal was reluctant to see this happen and we have now agreed to retain these.
- 29 When the project is complete the school will have a number of teaching spaces available to provide for anticipated future roll growth at Rowandale, as well as being strategically placed to take roll pressure off Finlayson Park and Clendon Park.

Proactive release

- 30 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.