



## Briefing Note: Counselling in Schools - Outline of Planned Service Provision

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	7 May 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1258271
<b>Drafter:</b>	Matt Roseingrave	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

**Note** the progress to date on the implementation of community provided counselling services in primary and secondary schools during Term 2 2021.

**Note** the methodology for allocating resource for community provided Guidance Counselling services.

**Note** our integrated approach to planning Guidance Counselling provision with the planned expansion of Mana Ake.

**Note** our next steps to undertake contract negotiations with selected providers and approach selected schools to confirm regional provision.

**Agree** that this Briefing will not be proactively released at this time because we are commencing negotiations with preferred suppliers and any release could comprise this process.

Agree / Disagree

### Summary

1. We are on track for delivery of community provided counselling services in primary and secondary schools during Term 2 2021.

2.

9(2)(j)

3. Following our allocation process, we are currently planning that Community provision of counselling in schools will be delivered in 9(2)(j) [REDACTED]. We anticipate that a potential learner population of 9(2)(j) [REDACTED] will benefit from access to this provision at a cost of 9(2)(j) [REDACTED] (the final costing will be determined after the final contract negotiations have concluded).
4. We are working collaboratively with other agencies to ensure alignment of mental wellbeing support to Primary and Secondary school children nationally.

  
Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

7/5/2021

  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Associate Minister of Education

10/05/2021

## Background

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5. On 23 April we sent you an update on our progress and timeline for community provided counselling services in primary (including area and intermediate schools) and secondary schools (Rapid 1257459 refers).
6. We have now identified the preferred suppliers we will be entering contract negotiations with, the regional allocation of funding for MoE regions and the schools which will be invited to participate in this initiative. We have also identified the potential number of learners who may benefit from access to community provided counselling services in primary and secondary schools.

## Procurement of Community provided Counselling services

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7. The Request for Proposals from interested parties for the community provision of counselling services went live on 16 January and closed on 15 March 2021. We received 69 qualifying responses offering at least some level of service for all the MOE regions. The level of quality response received greatly exceeded our expectations.
8. An evaluation panel comprised of representatives with the Ministry of Health (MoH), New Zealand Association of Counsellors, Procurement, the project team, and the Chief Advisor Māori, evaluated the proposals received and selected 9(2)(j)  
9(2)(j)
9. Table 1 outlines the number of providers identified per region and the capacity offered by those suppliers. These figures are provisional until the conclusion of contract negotiations with selected providers.

9(2)(j)

## Provision of Services to Māori Medium Kura

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9(2)(j)



13. The services for kura will be developed separately to the RFP-informed process for counselling services provision.

## Identification of Regions and Schools

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9(2)(j)



15. When developing the initial budget bid we had intended to deliver Counselling Services as a pilot in three regions, with provision in three schools per region. Scope was later expanded to delivery in six regions and we have now developed a service design which will provide services in 9 regions. Funding has been prioritised to provide the limited funding to those schools with the greatest need for counselling services that is not currently being addressed.
16. The determination of the areas of MoE regions, and the schools who will be invited to participate in this initiative is based on the identification of the areas of greatest need. For this initiative, the Ministry's Equity Index is the prime determinate of need. The Equity Index has a strong correlation with the MoH 'Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire' and the resulting data. There is also a strong relationship between the Equity Index and recent work undertaken by the MoH on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the Equity Index, counselling needs have been determined by reference to the student/ākonga attendance data contained in the Education Counts: Students/ākonga attending school/kura regularly data set.

9(2)(j)



## Allocation of Funding

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18. To ensure delivery within the available funding, the schools and regions have been identified using a high Equity Index rating where no other mental wellbeing support services are being delivered. This process identified the schools with the highest need within each region.



19. Table 2 shows the potential regional allocation of funding, potential number of identified schools and potential number of learners which may benefit from access to community provision of counselling in schools. These figures are all subject to confirmation following discussions with the schools about their inclusion.

Table 2

9(2)(j)



#### Inter-agency collaboration on Mental Wellbeing support services

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20. We are working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to co-design the approach for the national roll-out of mental wellbeing supports for primary and intermediate aged school children. This provision will be provided in the Northland, Counties Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Lakes and West Coast District Health Board (DHB) areas. We have agreed to align Guidance Counselling provision with Mana Ake provision by excluding from our coverage those areas of regions where MoH will be extending or continuing (in the case of Christchurch DHB) Mana Ake service delivery. The Bay of Plenty/Wairariki region is the only region where Mana Ake will cover the entire region.
21. The exception to this general agreement is Tai Tokerau, where the Ministry considers that the higher needs of the region require immediate support via the community provision of counselling services, as well as Mana Ake support.
22. Oranga Tamariki offer wellbeing support services in a number of schools through their Social Workers in Schools, Youth Workers in Schools, and Multi Agency Support Systems in Secondary Schools Programmes. These services although not the same as the counselling proposed by the counselling initiative are still providing mental wellbeing services to schools. Given the limited funding available, it is intended that schools receiving services from Oranga Tamariki will be excluded from this initiative and counselling services will be provided to those schools who have no other means of wellbeing support.

#### Next Steps

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23. After the completion of due diligence, the contract negotiations with each selected supplier will commence. As part of the contractual negotiations, we will confirm the suppliers' ability to provide services to the priority schools identified for each region. The contract will specify the maximum hours of counselling services to be provided by each selected supplier.

24. We will contact the selected schools to confirm that they wish to participate. In the event that any schools do not want to take part, their places will be offered to another school from within the region that meets the criteria.
25. On 28 May we will provide you with a briefing on the results of the contract negotiations confirming the details of the providers of counselling services.

### Proactive Release

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26. We recommend that this Briefing is not released at this time because we are commencing negotiations with preferred suppliers and any release could comprise this process.

Proactively Released