Briefing Note: Reporting on the Delivery Progress of COVID-19 Recovery and Response Funding Initiatives

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 24 May 2021

Priority: Medium

Security Level: Budget Sensitive

METIS No: 1259732

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DDI: 6444637730

Messaging seen by Communications team: Yes / No

Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide updated COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) information that includes expenditures as at 30 April 2021.

Summary

1. The report demonstrates the accomplishments and progress towards delivering the 44 CRRF initiatives in Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education. The CRRF has been used to maintain education services, support the recovery of international education and urgently respond to regional and local needs.

2. Of the initiatives funded by the CRRF, 32 (73%) are currently being implemented and 12 initiatives (27%) were completed prior to 30 April 2021.

3. Since the 31 March 2021 report, one initiative has closed:

C11 International Education Strategic Recovery: Immediate Targeted Support for Private Training Establishments

4. Of the 32 ongoing programmes, four have multiple sub-initiatives with unique status reports (Annex 1 refers):

3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce
11. Supporting Māori Learners and Te Reo Māori Post COVID-19
13. Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families (operating contingency)
15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)
Including the sub-initiatives with unique status reports, there are 46 ongoing programmes:

a. 28 initiatives (61%) are green, which are on track to spend the full allocation within the financial year
b. 5 initiatives (11%) are amber, which have delayed expenditure and are being monitored closely
c. 13 initiatives (28%) are red, which are off track for spending and unlikely to spend full allocation within the financial year.

Although 13 initiatives (28%) are classified as red, several of these are not material due to the size or significance of the expenditure. Of those initiatives classified as red, the following 5 (11%) should be noted as significant (Annex 1 refers):

3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: Guidance Counselling in primary and secondary schools
3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: Frontline Curriculum Support and Resources
3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: Increased Access to Workplace Wellbeing Support for Educators
14. Sustaining the Early Learning Network (operating contingency)
26. Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)

The total CRRF funding for 2020/21 was originally $1.1 billion. Since returning funds to the centre, the total funding for 2020/21 has been reduced to $789.1 million. The funding by status is:

a. $512.7 million (65%) is green
b. $12.9 million (2%) is amber
c. $165.6 million (21%) is red, of which $60.9 million (8% of the reduced $789.1 million total CRRF funding) is material
d. $98.0 million (12%) is complete.

Compared to 31 March 2021, six additional initiatives have been identified as being green and two additional initiatives have been identified as being red. The initiatives that have changed their status are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative Name</th>
<th>Status as of 31 March 2021</th>
<th>Status as of 30 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Teacher Aide Hours</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Establishing Workforce Development Councils to Support COVID-19 Recovery</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Cost Pressure for Teacher Aide Hours</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Green/Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eight new initiatives may require In-Principle Transfers to the next financial year (Annex 1 refers):

COVID-19 created significant pressures on allowances for future budgets. There is a risk that underspends will not be eligible for transfers across financial years and will be required to be returned to the centre. A strong case is required to successfully gain any future In-Principal Transfers.

Next Steps

You may wish to discuss this report at a forthcoming Ministerial Agency meeting.

As the CRRF was intended to provide immediate funding to respond in a timely manner to the impacts of COVID-19, reporting on the CRRF initiatives will conclude in July 2021 with the June Status of Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education Ongoing CRRF Initiatives report. Any initiatives with ongoing CRRF funding after 1 July 2021 will be captured through reporting on the Education Work Programme 2021, which is currently under development.

Proactive Release

We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released, with Annexes 1 and 2 withheld, 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.
Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **Note** our progress report on the delivery of the 32 ongoing COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education initiatives.

   **Noted**

b. **Release** this briefing once it has been considered by you, with Annexes 1 and 2 withheld.

   **Release/Not release**

Emily Fabling  
**Deputy Secretary**  
Strategy, Planning and Governance  
24/05/2021

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**  
30/5/2021
**Annex 1:**

**April Status of Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education Ongoing CRRF Initiatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Descriptions in Annex)</th>
<th>Total Funding 2020/21</th>
<th>Spend to 30 April 2021</th>
<th>Forecast Total Spend 2020/21</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Rationale for Status or Variance</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Equitable Digital Access</td>
<td>OpEx 15.1 CapEx 11.1</td>
<td>OpEx 12.2 CapEx 9.5</td>
<td>OpEx 15.0 CapEx 11.0</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>The project is progressing as planned, and the spend is tracking to forecast.</td>
<td>Over 45,000 internet connections have been allocated to households with learners across the country, and over 37,000 devices have been distributed to learners. The impact of this initiative is being evaluated and the results will be available for the Minister before 31 December 2021. The Ministry is engaging with 33 schools in the South Auckland region to proactively connect more households with learners in need. Specialist staff appointments were expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2020/21. Of the seven appointments, four were completed and the remaining three are in progress. 1,000 additional Trades Academy places have been fully subscribed for the 2021 calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increasing Trades Academy Places and Supporting Secondary Transitions</td>
<td>OpEx 6.2 OpEx 4.0</td>
<td>OpEx 6.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>The funding has been fully committed for the 2021 calendar year, which covers 2020/21 and the first six months of 2021/22. Three of the seven specialist staff appointments are in the recruitment process. This leads to an underspend of $0.2 million to date.</td>
<td>As of 30 April 2021, 970 of the 1,000 places have been filled. The Urgent Response Fund has delivered $44.0 million of the $50.0 million fund (88%). The Ministry has approved 4,551 applications to the Fund, supporting 461,472 learners. The Ministry of Health signed a contract with Te Pūkenga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce</td>
<td>OpEx 74.0 OpEx 49.7</td>
<td>OpEx 68.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>The Urgent Response Fund is tracking to be fully spent by the end of the financial year.</td>
<td>The Guidance Counselling in large secondary schools initiative has fully spent the $4.4 million of the $11.0 million allocation, shared with the initiative below, for the secondary school staffing entitlement. The Guidance Counselling in primary and secondary schools initiative, which shares the $11.0 million allocation with the above initiative, returned $2.0 million to the centre due to the planned service delivery for these schools starting in Term 2, 2021, rather than Term 1, 2021. Last month, a further underspend of $1.0 million was indicated for providing guidance counselling in primary and small secondary schools due to the additional time required to evaluate RFP responses. This is a material underspend. The Guidance Counselling in primary and secondary schools initiative closed an RFP for the remaining services on 15 March 2021. The RFPs' evaluation is being finalised and contract negotiations and services are commencing in May 2021. This has taken longer than planned as a higher number of comprehensive proposals were received than expected. In addition, $2.0 million has been reallocated to the Ministry of Health for the expansion of Mana Ake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Status Definitions**

- **RED**: Initiatives that are off track for spending and unlikely to spend full allocation within the financial year.
- **AMBER**: Initiatives that have delayed expenditure and we are monitoring closely.
- **GREEN**: Initiatives that are on track to spend the full allocation within the financial year.
## Annex 1:
### April Status of Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education Ongoing CRRF Initiatives

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<th>2021 Budget</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Mitigating Impacts of Socioeconomic Disadvantage: School Lunches (op)</td>
<td>OpEx 106.9</td>
<td>OpEx 53.6</td>
<td>OpEx 94.8</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>CRRF funds were supplemented with $16.1 million in pilot funds, for total of $123.0 million. Subsequently, $25.6 million was transferred by fiscally neutral adjustment approved by Cabinet to Providing Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kūia. A further $7.5 million was transferred into 2021/22, leaving a balance of $85.9 million. It is expected that $94.8 million will be spent by the end of the financial year. The $5.0 million overspend in this initiative is to be offset within the Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA. This should not present an appropriation issue.</td>
<td>2021 Budget</td>
<td>A further 38,000 students have started receiving lunches since 31 March 2021, resulting in approximately 188,000 students now receiving a daily lunch. The programme expects to deliver lunches to around 198,000 students by the fourth quarter of 2020/21.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5. 100% Qualified and Certificated Teachers (ECE) | OpEx 12.2 | OpEx 1.5 | OpEx 12.2 | Green | This initiative started as planned on 1 January 2021. The actual spend to date is based on the January 2021 entitlement, which has been calculated from the payments made on 1 March, 22 March, 1 April and 1 May 2021.  
The forecast total entitlement spend through May 2021 will be known once the data for the 1 July 2021 payment has been processed. Although entitlement for June 2021 will not be known until later in the calendar year, an estimate will be provided for the final year-end report. The total forecast spend is expected to be in line with the total funding of $12.2 million. | 2021 Budget | As the January 2021 spend was $1.5 million, the next five months of entitlement are anticipated to be approximately $1.5 million per month. This would result in the 2020/21 financial year total being approximately $9 million. It is also expected that an uptake of services meeting the 100% funding band would result in the full $12.2 million forecast expenditure. The forecast total entitlement spend through May 2021 will be known once the data for the 1 July 2021 payment has been processed. Although entitlement for June 2021 will not be known until later in the calendar year, an estimate will be provided for the final year-end report. The total forecast spend is expected to be in line with the total funding of $12.2 million. |
| 6. Early Intervention: Te Kohanga Reo – Learning Support Initiative and Targeted COVID-19 Response | OpEx 1.1 | OpEx 0.04 | OpEx 1.1 | Green | The Trust has significant concerns about the all-of-government Framework Terms and Conditions that are appended to all outcome agreements. The Ministry and the Trust have now agreed to draft and agree to a variation to an existing contract between both parties, which is being developed by the Ministry’s Titiri | Treaty specialist lawyer, instead of using the standard all-of-government Framework Terms and Conditions. Both parties are working with urgency to complete the contract. Taking the time to reach a formal agreement that meets both parties’ needs is beneficial for our ongoing relationship and ākonga’s long-term outcomes. The project is progressing as planned. Project governance is working hard to achieve initiative objectives. | 2021 Budget | The Trust has significant concerns about the all-of-government Framework Terms and Conditions that are appended to all outcome agreements. The Ministry and the Trust have now agreed to draft and agree to a variation to an existing contract between both parties, which is being developed by the Ministry’s Titiri Treaty specialist lawyer, instead of using the standard all-of-government Framework Terms and Conditions. Both parties are working with urgency to complete the contract. Taking the time to reach a formal agreement that meets both parties’ needs is beneficial for our ongoing relationship and ākonga’s long-term outcomes. The project is progressing as planned. Project governance is working hard to achieve initiative objectives. |
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<tr>
<td>8. Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Teacher Aide Hours</td>
<td>OpEx 39.8</td>
<td>OpEx 29.2</td>
<td>OpEx 39.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Maintaining Kōhanga Reo Viability during the Post COVID-19 Rebuilding Phase (previously: Sustaining Kōhanga Reo and Te Reo Māori)</td>
<td>OpEx 24.4</td>
<td>OpEx 15.1</td>
<td>OpEx 24.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. NCEA Online: Transforming Assessment for Learners</td>
<td>OpEx 14.8</td>
<td>OpEx 10.9</td>
<td>OpEx 14.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Supporting Māori Learners and Te Reo Māori Post COVID-19</td>
<td>OpEx 56.0</td>
<td>OpEx 3.9</td>
<td>OpEx 51.0</td>
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**Rationale for Status or Variance**

- **OpEx**: Outlay Expenditure
- **1**: A 3-hour average increase.
- **2**: 18.6 million has been paid. Further payments will be made throughout the rest of the year.
- **3**: An estimated $5.6 million in payments to TAPEC have been made. Further payments will be made throughout the rest of the year.

**Comment**

- **1**: The Ministry is monitoring this.
- **2**: The Ministry’s funding system cannot specifically differentiate whether rate increases are funded through the CRRF. All early childhood education operational funding payments to the Trust have been delivered. The increases are valued at $124.0 million. The CRRF capability funding has also been delivered as expected.
- **3**: Although the Ministry’s funding system cannot specifically differentiate whether rate increases are funded through the CRRF, all early childhood education operational funding payments to the Trust have been delivered. The increases are valued at $126.0 million. The CRRF capability funding has also been delivered as expected.

**Status**

- **RED**: Initiatives that are off track for spending and unlikely to spend full allocation within the financial year.
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<tr>
<td>12. Technology Support for School Children with Learning Support Needs</td>
<td>OpEx 1.0</td>
<td>OpEx 0.4</td>
<td>OpEx 0.8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>There has been no spend to date for Te Aho Ngārahu. An Expense Capital Transfer of $0.7 million was requested at the March Baseline Update due to work prioritisation and capacity. The funding will be committed in this financial year.</td>
<td>The Ministry has met with all 30 successful applicants for Te Aho Ngārahu; however, distribution of the full budget has been delayed. At the same time, the Ministry is ensuring all applicants return their signed Kawa Whanaungatanga and Licencing Agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families (operating contingency)</td>
<td>OpEx 16.2</td>
<td>OpEx 9.0</td>
<td>OpEx 14.9</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>The Rauemi initiative has requested an Expense Capital Transfer of $1.0 million at the March Baseline Update due to work prioritisation and capacity.</td>
<td>This initiative is currently printing eight different resources, which will be distributed to Māori-medium kura over the coming weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Sustaining the Early Learning Network (operating contingency)</td>
<td>OpEx 34.6</td>
<td>OpEx 0.8</td>
<td>OpEx</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>There has been no spend to date for Kura Whānau Reo while the Ministry co-designs an appropriate and relevant communications pack with the regions to confirm the criteria for the pilot. Although the funding allocation cannot be finalised, the Ministry is working closely with the regional champions to ensure a diverse range of iwi or hapū agencies are offered an opportunity to participate in this 18-month pilot. The Ministry is assessing applications or has committed funding for 79% of the total fund.</td>
<td>The Ministry and regions are identifying the final key pilot regions by 29 May 2021. In anticipation of this co-design work, the Ministry has identified the iwi and hapū who have prioritised language learning with whānau to participate in Kura Whānau Reo. The regional offices are currently working with their iwi and hapū to deliver this. Outcome agreements will be in place by June 2021. The Ministry has received 171 applications for the Technology Support Fund. The Ministry is also working with Te Rūnanga Nui to increase their ākonga learners’ access to and use of assistive technology. Time was required to build our relationship before being able to contract staff to support this initiative.</td>
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</tbody>
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<td>GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)</td>
<td>OpEx 22.9</td>
<td>OpEx 89.0</td>
<td>OpEx 14.2</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This is a material underspend.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Ministry of Education's component of this fund, valued at $11.8 million, will be fully spent by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. To date, $7.3 million (62%) has been spent. There will be further expenditure over May 2021 as initiatives under the fund are implemented and invoices are received.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Careers System Online: Tiro Whetū</td>
<td>OpEx 1.2</td>
<td>OpEx 0.6</td>
<td>OpEx 2.3</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>This initiative delivered the Minimum Viable Product tool in early 2021 as planned.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>CapEx 8.5</td>
<td>CapEx 4.8</td>
<td>CapEx 5.1</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
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<td>The build is progressing well, with the latest version launched on 22 April 2021.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Adult and Community Education (ACE)</td>
<td>OpEx 2.2</td>
<td>OpEx 1.0</td>
<td>OpEx 1.8</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative is on track to meet its overall goals.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Establishing Workforce Development Councils to Support COVID-19 Recovery</td>
<td>OpEx 4.0</td>
<td>OpEx 1.6</td>
<td>OpEx 4.0</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>This initiative has shifted from red to green in April 2021 due to Cabinet approving the transfer of $42.0 million to the Industry Training Fund (CAB-21-MIN-0116.29 – Initiative 13519 refers). The WDC Establishment Unit is forecast to spend $4.0 million in 2020/21. Cabinet has now approved the Orders in Council that establish the WDCs. These are subject to a 28-day period before they come into effect following the Governor General’s approval.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| 19. Maintaining Support for Onshore International Students and International Education | OpEx 7.0 (incl. $3.3 for ENZ) | OpEx 2.7 (ENZ spend to date) | OpEx 7.0 (incl. $3.3 funding for ENZ) | GREEN  | This initiative requires a contingency to be held to cover reimbursements for students where private providers fail as a result of COVID-19. |         |
|                                                                                        |                        |                        |                             |        | The administration of the Code of Practice and Disputes Resolution Scheme, policy development and advice to support the sector are underway. |         |
|                                                                                        |                        |                        |                             |        | By 30 April 2021, ENZ had spent $2.7 million on institutional development for the regions, promotions and marketing, and research and resource development. |         |
|                                                                                        |                        |                        |                             |        | GREEN  | This includes brand health and COVID-19 perception tracking through the Kantar Brand Health Monitors survey, which measures international student perceptions of New Zealand's education quality across our key markets, agent events in the market and co-funding investment for the regions. |         |</p>
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<tr>
<td>20. Meeting Increased Learner Need for Tertiary Education</td>
<td>OpEx 79.5</td>
<td>OpEx 23.0</td>
<td>OpEx 79.5</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This is demand-driven funding. Enrolment data as at 30 April 2021 is now being analysed and the available funding is being prioritised and allocated.</td>
<td>Funding confirmation letters that agree on the volume and value of delivery have been issued to TEOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Support for Group Training Schemes to Retain Apprentices in Preparation of Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery</td>
<td>OpEx 16.1</td>
<td>OpEx 13.5</td>
<td>OpEx 16.1</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>The next milestone reports are due in July 2021 for the period ending 30 June 2021.</td>
<td>There was a recent proposal to Minister Hipkins to extend the Group Training Schemes' ability to spend funding through to 30 June 2022 (METIS 1254420 refers). The TEC will commence work on extending contracts as appropriate. Future actions will be outlined in an upcoming paper (METIS 1256699 refers).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund</td>
<td>OpEx 160.0</td>
<td>OpEx 186.7</td>
<td>OpEx 214.8</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative is on track.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Critical Funding to Address Supplier Contractual Obligations Arising from The Impact Of COVID-19</td>
<td>OpEx 13.0</td>
<td>OpEx 4.4</td>
<td>OpEx 0</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>The 2020-21 funding is held in contingency. A draw down of the contingency for the expenditure to date was authorised by joint Ministers in April 2021, which included recognition of $56.0 million. The funding was returned due to a smaller than predicted market disruption and fewer than expected claims from contractors. This initiative is reliant on the submission of claims by contractors and, as such, any forecast would be uncertain.</td>
<td>Evidence indicates that the construction industry has handled the COVID-19 disruption and impacts much better than economic specialists predicted. Due to this, $56.0 million of the $107.0 million has been returned to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund from this contingency fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Enable Providers to Deliver Education Offshore and Develop Quality Assurance</td>
<td>OpEx 0.5</td>
<td>OpEx 0.2</td>
<td>OpEx 0.5</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>The expenditure is tracking close to forecast.</td>
<td>The expenditure is tracking close to forecast.</td>
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<td>26. Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)</td>
<td>OpEx 5.8</td>
<td>OpEx 2.4</td>
<td>OpEx 3.5</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>The programme started its delivery later than forecast due to a delayed announcement in August 2020, preventing the Ministry from engaging with the key supplier, N4L. Taking into account programme start-up activities, this effectively resulted in a three-month delay to the start of the programme delivery. Most of the services are being delivered by an Auckland-based organisation, which was impacted by successive COVID-19 lockdowns.</td>
<td>N4L is experiencing recruitment challenges for the specialist resources needed in the Security Operations Centre. The Ministry has approved over $6 million in claims by the end of April 2021. The value of claims paid out in April 2021 was $0.2 million. Expenditure is tracking close to forecast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final report on the deep dive workshops with the sector has been submitted to Minister Hipkins (METIS 1255737 refers).
Annex 1: April Status of Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education Ongoing CRRF Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Descriptions in Annex)</th>
<th>Total Funding 2020/21</th>
<th>Spend to 30 April 2021</th>
<th>Forecast Total Spend 2020/21</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Rationale for Status or Variance</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27. Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Cost Pressure for Teacher Aide Hours</td>
<td>OpEx 15.2</td>
<td>OpEx 14.7</td>
<td>OpEx 18.7</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This fund, which was originally allocated $19.0 million, returned $3.8 million to the Treasury for a total of $15.2 million in funding for the 2020/21 financial year. The full funding will be required in outyears.</td>
<td>The Ministry is currently assessing applications for Phase 2, which makes $12.4 million available for schools to apply for additional teacher aide support for students who need more help on their return to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Providing Digital Identity Required for Online Assessment and Learning</td>
<td>OpEx 2.6</td>
<td>OpEx 1.2</td>
<td>OpEx 1.6</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>This initiative was off track for spending and unlikely to spend full allocation within the financial year.</td>
<td>Regions are estimating that most of the Phase 2 Fund will be spent following an increase in applications since the previous monthly report. This will continue to be monitored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. International Education Strategic Recovery: Communications, marketing and brand awareness</td>
<td>OpEx 2.0</td>
<td>OpEx 0</td>
<td>OpEx 2.0</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative will be delivered in 2021/22 to better align the timing and approach to New Zealand’s border position and opportunity.</td>
<td>The Minister of Finance has approved an expense transfer of this funding to 2021/22.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. International Education Strategic Recovery: Diversification of International Education Products and Services</td>
<td>OpEx 1.9</td>
<td>OpEx 1.8</td>
<td>OpEx 1.9</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative is on track.</td>
<td>This initiative has created a diversified education offering for international students by providing funding to test, develop and deliver pathways, as well as new products and services to sustain and drive growth in the post-COVID-19 environment. This includes United Digital Learning Platform, Pathways Project and Study with New Zealand development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. International Education Strategic Recovery: Recovery Funding For NZ-Based Learners to Access English Language Courses</td>
<td>OpEx 1.5</td>
<td>OpEx 1.0</td>
<td>OpEx 1.5</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative is on track.</td>
<td>This initiative is on track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Maintaining Support for International Education (Export Education Levy funded activities)</td>
<td>OpEx 0</td>
<td>OpEx 0</td>
<td>OpEx 0</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>This initiative is on track to start in 2021/22.</td>
<td>This relates to 2021/22 only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10 Funding to support schools to manage the immediate costs of COVID-19</td>
<td>OpEx 38.3</td>
<td>OpEx 21.4</td>
<td>OpEx 23.8</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>All eligible applications have been funded, and this initiative is now closed. This initiative includes a mix of formula-based funding and application-based funding. Formula-based funding has been fully distributed.</td>
<td>All eligible applications have been funded, and this initiative is now closed. Further funding is required to support school’s daily operations and curriculum delivery to ensure that learners’ outcomes are not affected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry is continuing to receive applications for costs relating to Alert Level changes, including day relief teachers.
Annex 2: Completed CRRF Initiatives

C1 Establishing A Student Hardship Fund For 2020
C2 Support to learners for distance learning while schools, kura and services were closed under COVID-19 Alert Levels 3-4
C3 Support to schools for online learning. Additional support to learners for distance learning while schools, kura and services were closed under COVID-19 Alert Levels 3-4
C4 Wage support for school hostel employees due to COVID-19
C5 Extension of emergency payment for casual staff in the school sector
C6 Supporting At-Risk Ākonga To Re-Engage and Attend School During The Covid-19 Recovery
C7 Transition Support for State And State Integrated Schools That Have Lost International Revenue As A Result Of Covid-19
C8 Continuation of Support for the Casual Schooling Workforce Unable to Work Due to COVID-19
C9 Support for Schools Payroll
C10 Funding to support schools to manage the immediate costs of COVID-19
C11 International Education Strategic Recovery: Immediate Targeted Support for Private Training Establishments
C12 Ensuring continuity and adequacy of student support – increase in student loans. (Treasury confirmed no need to report on this initiative.)
Annex 3: Full description of initiatives

1. Equitable Digital Access
   Provision of devices to students, and provision of internet service to student households.

2. Increasing Trades Academy Places and Supporting Secondary Transitions
   This initiative provides funding for two components:
   1) Increase the volume of Trades Academy places by 1,000 places a year from 2021 onwards. This is intended to give schools more options to meet the needs of their students during the expected economic downturn and will ultimately help with our recovery by building up our skilled workforce.
   2) Continue funding for the network of Ministry regionally-based staff to provide specialist support for schools and tertiary education organisations, focusing on learner achievement, retention and transition, and those not in education, employment or training.
   Led by the Minister of Education.

3. Increasing Wellbeing and mental Health support to Learners and Education Workforce.
   This initiative will provide funding to increase the provision of wellbeing and mental health support to learners and the education workforce in response to COVID-19. Led by the Minister of Education.

4. Mitigating Impacts of Socioeconomic Disadvantage: School Lunches (op)
   This initiative provides funding to relieve food insecurity and improve educational outcomes for students through expanding the Free and Healthy School Lunch Programme to up to 190,000 more Year 1-13 students. Delivery targets schools with the highest disadvantage using the Equity Index. Before the pandemic around one in five children lived in households with severe or moderate food insecurity. This initiative will help cushion the blow of Covid-19 impacts on students in already socio-economically disadvantaged households who will now be experiencing heightened financial stress, job and income losses. In Term 3 recruitment, planning and systems development will support the scaled-up programme, with expansion of school lunches starting in Term 4.

5. 100% Qualified andCertificated Teachers
   This initiative provides funding to reinsert a higher funding band for teacher-led, centre-based services (i.e. kindergartens and education and care centres) to employ a 100% qualified and certificated teaching workforce. This is expected to improve the quality and frequency of teacher-child interactions, and lead to better learning and developmental outcomes for children in services employing a 100% certificated workforce. COVID-19 is likely to lower demand for early learning services. This initiative maintains employment opportunities for qualified ECE teachers in an environment when fewer services are likely to be operating.

   The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) will partner with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust (the Trust) to co-design and co-deliver targeted strategies and support for the kōhanga whānau (kaiako, parents, whānau) to support tamaiti with learning support needs to recover from COVID-19 and reduce the gap in access to learning support. With an emphasis on keeping Kōhanga whānau connected during alert levels enabling a safe return of all tamaiti and whānau to Kōhanga.

7. Creatives in Schools
   This initiative seeks to expand the Creatives in Schools programme, in which professional artists and creative practitioners partner with schools and kura to share specialist artistic knowledge and creative practice. This is an expansion of an existing initiative, funded through Budget 2019, with the new funding enabling the Ministry of Education to increase the total number of projects from 304 to 510 over the first four years of the programme.

8. Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Teacher Aide Hours
   This initiative delivers an increase in teacher aide hours for over 10,000 students in the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS). This initiative means schools with ORS students will receive increased funding to employ teacher aides for more hours to help with the transition back to school. This will support high and very high needs students with physical distancing and hygiene practices, however it will also allow schools to respond to the individual needs of the student upon their return to school. Parents will experience greater wellbeing as a result of their children receiving the support they need to return to school safely. Led by the Minister of Education.

9. Maintaining Kōhanga Reo Viability during the Post-Covid 19 Rebuilding Phase (previously: Sustaining Kōhanga Reo and Revitalising Te Reo Māori)
   The initiative provides funding to improve the sustainability, capacity and capability of Kōhanga Reo. This will assist the Crown to revitalise te reo Māori and help integrate it into the learning of children by 2025. The initiative will increase the funding rates for each Kōhanga reo and the annual funding the Ministry provides the Kōhanga reo National Trust (the Trust) to support the Kōhanga reo network. The support for the Trust includes funding to assist with assessment of, and associated remedial and rehabilitation work on, Kōhanga reo properties. Led by the Minister of Education and the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis.

10. NCEA Online: Transforming Assessment for Learners
    This initiative will provide funding to continue to implement digital National Certificate of Education Achievement (NCEA) examinations. Access to digital external examinations is a critical component of the response to COVID-19 and reflects today’s expectations for digitally supported teaching and learning. Building on significant investments already made and progress so far, a flexible sector technology asset will enable digital assessment across all appropriate NCEA subjects and levels. It will support the further development of resilient operating models for assessment undertaken by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, including supporting the implementation of the proposed NCEA changes. Led by the Minister of Education.

11. Supporting Māori Learners And Te Reo Maori Post Covid-19
    This initiative will: Support Māori learners and whānau to reconnect with education services following COVID-19 to ensure they access the full range of education and wellbeing services and achieve successful outcomes by engaging Iwi and Māori organisations to provide facilitated and brokerage services. It will also strengthen the delivery of Māori Language in Education through enhanced distance- and place-based blended approaches, including targeted support for the education workforce, resource development and information to learners and whānau. Led by Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis.

12. Technology Support for School Children With Learning Support Needs
    This initiative will provide funding for school children with learning support needs to access devices or assistive technology to enable them to fully participate in learning, either at home or at school. Led by the Minister of Education.

13. Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families (operating contingency)
    Tautau o le Moana– Navigators of the Ocean is a professional learning and development initiative designed to strengthen the capabilities of those in leadership, to improve outcomes and support the wellbeing of Pacific learners. Led by the Minister of Education.

14. Sustaining the Early Learning Network (operating contingency)
    This contingency provides support for the viability of early learning services.

15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)
    This contingency provides targeted support for at-risk ākonga.

16. Careers System Online: Tiro Whetū
    This initiative enables TEC to develop a free, consistent, accessible, high quality tool for learners and workers to use throughout their lifetime to plan and manage their careers. It will help New Zealanders to understand their transferrable skills and develop a personalised career plan targeting the vulnerable and supporting key government agencies. The tool will help New Zealanders understand the skills they have and their transferability to other roles, and aid the development of skills relevant to jobs in demand. It will help secondary school students to gain line of sight to career opportunities and learning pathways needed, broadening their options to enable good decision-making. Led by the Minister of Education.

17. Adult and Community Education (ACE) - a modern approach to night classes
    This initiative builds on the capability of providers and expanding the range of Government-funded Adult and Community Education (ACE) to better meet the learning needs of New Zealanders in the post COVID-19 21st century. Led by the Minister of Education.
Annex 3: Full description of initiatives

18 Establishing Workforce Development Councils To Support Covid-19 Recovery
This initiative provides funding to accelerate the establishment of Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to give industry greater leadership across the vocational education and training system, and help ensure the delivery of the skills industries need to recover from the impact of COVID-19. WDCs are a foundational component of the Government’s Reform of Vocational Education. Led by the Minister of Education.

19 Maintaining Support for Onshore International Students and International Education
This initiative provides funding to offset the shortfall in revenue from the Export Education Levy (EEL). The EEL is paid by providers with international students and the funds are used to deliver services to support international education and international students. As far fewer students are able to study in New Zealand due to COVID-19, the projected EEL revenue is lower than needed to fund the pastoral care services, marketing and promotion activities. We propose to lessen the financial impact on education providers by ‘freezing’ EEL payments for the last trimester of 2019 and not collecting them for 2020. We are also seeking funding to hold in contingency to cover reimbursements for students where private providers fail as a result of COVID-19.

20 Meeting Increased Learner Need For Tertiary Education
This initiative provides funding to manage the cost of funding additional tertiary education enrolments from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023 resulting from the impact of COVID-19. Led by the Minister of Education.

21 Support For Group Training Schemes To Retain Apprentices In Preparation Of Post-Covid-19 Economic Recovery
This Supporting Learners and Providers initiative funds Group Training Schemes to continue to employ apprentices whose host employers (primarily small construction businesses) are unable to support them and provide on-the-job opportunities. Retaining these apprentices through the COVID-19 restrictions will enable a quick restart of training once the restrictions are lifted and business opportunities improve for host employers. This will ensure apprentices can continue with their training and become work-ready sooner. Led by the Minister of Education.

22 Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund
Funding vocational learning options fees-free over the immediate period of the economic recession, 2020-2022, to support people to upskill during the economic downturn, within the workplace, or at providers. It would support education and training towards qualifications to meet industry skill needs, and vocational learning for roles that support community wellbeing. It would also include training in smaller learning blocks, which support more flexibility around delivery during the pandemic alert levels and gaps in learners’ employment. Led by the Minister of Education.

23 Transitional Industry Training Organisation And Workforce Development Council-Led Covid-19 Response Projects
This Enabling the System to Respond initiative provides funding for projects led by Transitional Industry Training Organisations (TITOs) and Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), involving industries, industry groups and training providers, to develop local and industry training responses to COVID-19, design alternative arrangements for apprentices who have lost jobs, design with providers learning pathways that work for industries, and review existing training standards and programme components so they are fit for purpose as short packages of learning or as part of changed pathway designs. Led by the Minister of Education.

24 Critical Funding to Address Supplier Contractual Obligations Arising From The Impact Of Covid-19
This contingency provides funding to reimburse school property contractors who have incurred additional unavoidable costs as a result of COVID-19.

25 Enable providers to deliver education offshore and develop quality assurance
Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service And Cybersecurity For Schools)
This initiative provides essential funding to strengthen the resilience of delivering online learning systems, including NCEA Online. It ensures that schools’ aging network hardware is upgraded and cybersecurity protection is installed to tackle the increasing risk of phishing scams, data leaks, and exposure to harmful websites.

27 Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Cost Pressure for Teacher Aide Hours
This initiative provides funding to address cost pressures arising from the urgent need for an increase in teacher aide hours for more than 10,000 high and very high needs students in the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS). The level of student need and resulting demand for teacher aide hours has been higher over the past year than is currently funded, creating an ongoing baseline cost pressure.

28 Providing Digital Identity Required For Online Assessment And Learning
This initiative provides funding to add functionality and identity records to the Education Sector Logon system for secondary schools students so that they can sit NCEA online securely. This logon system could be rolled out across the remaining student cohorts in the school sector in the future at marginal cost to support online enrolment and learning.

29 International Education Strategic Recovery: Communications, marketing and brand awareness
This initiative provides funding to support international education communications, marketing and brand awareness so that we can drive and convert demand when circumstances allow, and ensure that NZ’s education brand and reputation do not diminish while borders are closed.

30 International Education Strategic Recovery: Diversification Of International Education Products And Services
The PTE ESOL Fund has a dual purpose. The funding will help increase demand for English language training, to be met by English Language Schools. In addition, this fund will also help with upskilling and improving the employability of New Zealanders with English language needs, including migrant partners and dependents of New Zealanders.

31 International Education Strategic Recovery: Immediate Targeted Support For Private Training Establishments
PTE TAF aims to support the stability of PTEs that contribute to regional significance or skill development needs. The providers can then in turn support their regions when international students return.

33 Maintaining Support For International Education (Export Education Levy Funded Activities)
This initiative provides funding to partially offset the shortfall in revenue for the Export Education Levy (EEL). The EEL is paid by providers with international students, and fund key international education pastoral care and promotion services. To support providers, planned legislative changes propose suspending collecting the EEL for 2021 (in addition to 2020, covered by Budget 2020). COVID-19 has seen a significant drop in international student numbers. Led by the Minister of Education.