



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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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

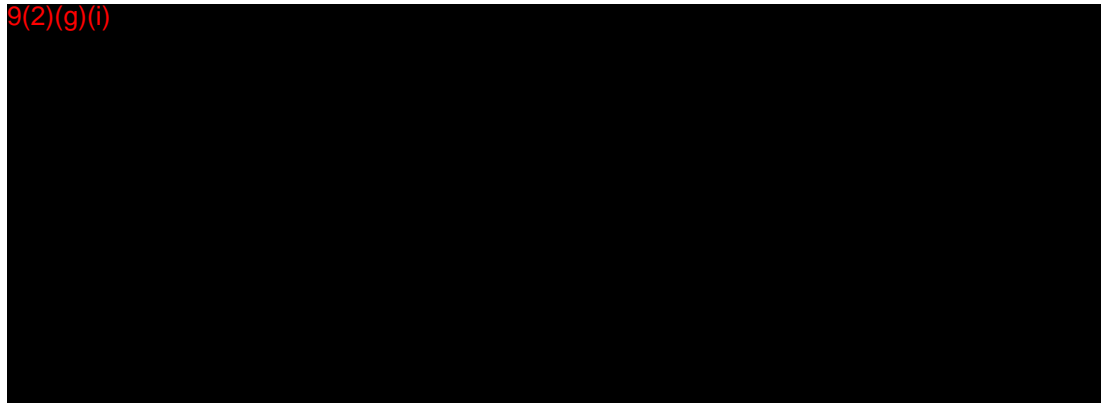
- 1 The report demonstrates the accomplishments and progress towards delivering the 44 CRRF initiatives in Vote Education and Vote Tertiary Education. The CRRF has been used to maintain education services, support the recovery of international education and urgently respond to regional and local needs.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

- 5 Including the sub-initiatives with unique status reports, there are 46 ongoing programmes:
- 28 initiatives (61%) are **green**, which are on track to spend the full allocation within the financial year
 - 5 initiatives (11%) are **amber**, which have delayed expenditure and are being monitored closely
 - 13 initiatives (28%) are **red**, which are off track for spending and unlikely to spend full allocation within the financial year.
- 6 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):
- Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: *Guidance Counselling in primary and secondary schools*
 - Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: *Frontline Curriculum Support and Resources*
 - Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce: *Increased Access to Workplace Wellbeing Support for Educators*
 - Sustaining the Early Learning Network (operating contingency)
 - Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)
- 7 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:
- \$512.7 million (65%) is **green**
 - \$12.9 million (2%) is **amber**
 - \$165.6 million (21%) is **red**, of which \$60.9 million (8% of the reduced \$789.1 million total CRRF funding) is material
 - \$98.0 million (12%) is **complete**.
- 8 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:

Initiative Name	Status as of 31 March 2021	Status as of 30 April
8. Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Teacher Aide Hours	Amber	Green
15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)	Amber	Green
18. Establishing Workforce Development Councils to Support COVID-19 Recovery	Red	Green
21. Support for Group Training Schemes to Retain Apprentices in Preparation of Post-COVID-19	Amber	Green
27. Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Cost Pressure for Teacher Aide Hours	Amber	Green
3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce	Amber	Green/Red
26. Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)	Green	Red

- 9 Eight new initiatives may require In-Principle Transfers to the next financial year (Annex 1 refers):

9(2)(g)(i)



- 10 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

- 11 You may wish to discuss this report at a forthcoming Ministerial Agency meeting.
- 12 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

- 13 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

STATUS	DEFINITION
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.

Name (Descriptions in Annex)	Total Funding 2020/21		Spend to 30 April 2021		Forecast Total Spend 2020/21		Status	Rationale for Status or Variance	Comment
1. Equitable Digital Access	OpEx	15.1	OpEx	12.2	OpEx	15.0	GREEN	The project is progressing as planned, and the spend is tracking to forecast.	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.
2. Increasing Trades Academy Places and Supporting Secondary Transitions	OpEx	6.2	OpEx	4.0	OpEx	6.0	GREEN	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.	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 9(2)(g)(i) . As of 30 April 2021, 970 of the 1,000 places have been filled.
3. Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce	OpEx	74.0	OpEx	49.7	OpEx	68.8	GREEN	The <i>Urgent Response Fund</i> is tracking to be fully spent by the end of the financial year.	The <i>Urgent Response Fund</i> 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 NZIST on 20 April 2021 on <i>Strengthening Mental Health Services for Tertiary Students</i> . The contract commits to spending \$1.6 million for this financial year and a further \$1.6 million for the next financial year. The contract includes an expectation that the first services will be in place in July 2021. Te Pūkenga NZIST are in the process of undertaking a thorough assessment process with their subsidiaries to understand what mental health services are currently delivered to their learners, as well as the gaps and needs to ensure that the funding is used efficiently and effectively. The Ministry of Health is in the process of engaging with wānanga regarding how best to address the mental health and wellbeing needs of their learners.
							GREEN	The <i>Strengthening Mental Health Services for Tertiary Students</i> initiative has signed a contract with Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) for the full allocation of \$1.6 million in 2020/21.	Secondary schools with over 450 secondary students have received additional staffing entitlement of 0.4 FTE in 2021 to enable them to provide additional guidance counsellor services.
							GREEN	The <i>Guidance Counselling in large secondary schools</i> 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 <i>Guidance Counselling in primary and small secondary schools</i> 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 Stronger for Tomorrow next year. Negotiations with preferred providers to supply services are now progressing.
							RED	The <i>Guidance Counselling in primary and secondary schools</i> 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.	Following an initial slow recruitment of 40 Curriculum Leads as part of the <i>Frontline Curriculum Support and Resources</i> initiative, 34 Leads have now been recruited. The recruitment of the outstanding roles is progressing well.
							RED	This is a material underspend. The <i>Frontline Curriculum Support and Resources</i> initiative is forecasting a spend of \$3.7 million against a budget of \$5.2 million (71%).	A \$4.2 million contract was signed to provide <i>counselling supports and services</i> to support the Auckland education workforce that experienced the Alert Level 3 resurgence, which was delivered between November 2020 and February
							RED	This is a material underspend. A \$4.2 million contract was signed to provide <i>Increased Access to Workplace Wellbeing Support for Educators</i> . 9(2)(f)	

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								9(2)(f)(iv) This is a material underspend.	2021: 9(2)(g)(i)
4. Mitigating Impacts of Socioeconomic Disadvantage: School Lunches (op)	OpEx CapEx	106.9 3.9	OpEx CapEx	53.6 1.5	OpEx CapEx	94.8 2.3	GREEN	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 <i>Providing Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura</i> . A further \$7.5 million was transferred into 2021/22, leaving a balance of \$89.9 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. 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.	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.
5. 100% Qualified and Certificated Teachers (ECE)	OpEx	12.2	OpEx	1.5	OpEx	12.2	GREEN		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	AMBER	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i) 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 Tiriti 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.	The funding spent to date is for a Māori learning support educational psychologist that has been employed by the Ministry to work as a Kaitohutohu Ārahi Guidance Counsellor with the Trust until June 2022.
7. Creatives in Schools	OpEx	1.6	OpEx	1.6	OpEx	1.6	GREEN		Round 1 has finished and the video case studies have been published online. The final evaluation found that the programme made a valuable contribution to sharing knowledge and offering creative practices in schools. Round 2 has funded 33 more projects than originally anticipated, bringing the total to 143 projects. Of those projects, 142 successful schools have signed their funding agreements.

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8. Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Teacher Aide Hours	OpEx 39.8	OpEx 29.2	OpEx 39.5	GREEN	<p>This fund, which was originally allocated \$44.8 million, returned \$5.0 million to the Treasury for a total of \$39.8 million in funding for the 2020/21 financial year. The full funding will be required in outyears. This initiative is on track since the funds have been returned.</p> <p>For the 3-hour average increase, time was required to review individual education plans across the whole cohort of 10,000 verified students, which has led to savings in Terms 3 and 4, 2020.</p> <p>9(2)(g)(i)</p> <p>The Ministry is monitoring this.</p>	<p>This initiative has three elements:</p> <p>1) <i>A 3-hour average increase:</i> Three instalments of this funding have been paid. The next payment will be made in Term 2, 2021.</p> <p>2) <i>ORS COVID-19 Response Fund:</i> In Phase 1, \$18.6 million (60% of the total fund) was allocated to schools. Phase 2, valued at \$12.4 million (40% of the fund), is being distributed on an application basis.</p> <p>3) <i>TAPEC:</i> An estimated \$5.6 million in payments for TAPEC have been made. Further payments will be made throughout the rest of the year.</p>
9. Maintaining Kōhanga Reo Viability during the Post COVID-19 Rebuilding Phase (previously: Sustaining Kōhanga Reo and Revitalising Te Reo Māori)	OpEx 24.4	OpEx 15.1	OpEx 24.4	GREEN	<p>This initiative is progressing as planned. Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust (the Trust) has submitted their priority property programme. The immediate focus is to finalise building contracts, which will allow for the release of the remaining funding.</p>	<p>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.</p>
10. NCEA Online: Transforming Assessment for Learners	OpEx 14.8	OpEx 10.9	OpEx 14.8	GREEN	<p>The project is currently tracking in line with the budget to the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>The NCEA Online initiative is on-track. The eventual uptake of digital assessments across all schools and students depends on a range of factors, including equitable student access to devices, school connectivity, each school's voluntary 'opt-in' decision, and the prevalence of digitally-enabled teaching and learning in the classroom.</p> <p>The NZQA is currently surveying schools regarding their intention to participate in 2021 digital end-of-year exams. Any further returns would seriously compromise the ability to deliver high-impact initiatives for Māori ākonga.</p>
11. Supporting Māori Learners and Te Reo Māori Post COVID-19	OpEx 56.0	OpEx 3.9	OpEx 51.0	RED	<p>This fund, which was originally allocated \$60.0 million, transferred \$4.0 million through the March Baseline Update for a total of \$56.0 million in funding for the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>The majority of this spend, \$30.6 million, is in <i>Te Ahu o te Reo Māori</i>. Of those funds, \$18.1 million has been committed to be spent before 30 June 2021. The remaining \$11.5 million of this budget was reprioritised to fund the provision of learning and teaching materials that support learning te reo Māori, which is being delivered as of May 2021.</p> <p>The <i>Whānau Engagement Fund</i> consists of \$8.2 million. The funding is expected to be spent by the end of the 2020/21 year despite the programme's slow start. To date, \$1.2 million has been committed.</p> <p>9(2)(g)(i)</p>	<p>Thirteen providers have been confirmed for <i>Te Ahu o te Reo Māori</i>. Contract negotiations were completed by 19 May 2021. Payments for the full allocation are being actioned according to each contract in May 2020 and will be fully distributed before 30 June 2021. The remaining funding will be used as part of the negotiation with the three wānanga. If wānanga decide they would like to support the provision of <i>Te Ahu o te Reo Māori</i> in areas where there is currently no provision allocated, \$4.4 million of the reallocated \$11.5 million will be made available to them to do so.</p> <p>Three regions have agreements in place, valued at \$1.2 million. Partnership discussions with iwi are progressing across the regions on the use of the total funding. Monthly progress reports for the Fund will be provided by each region to Ministers to provide the most up-to-date information. All regions are actively engaging with iwi and working to 'do things differently.' Putting this into practice is a work in progress for both iwi and the Ministry. 9(2)(g)(i)</p> <p>Discussions with Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga about this kaupapa principle are being scheduled for June 2021 to identify one of the Wānanga as the 'Whakaruruhau' Governing Authority of the degree programme. The Whakaruruhau Governing Authority will partner with iwi to roll out the programme into other regions.</p>

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Name (Descriptions in Annex)	Total Funding 2020/21	Spend to 30 April 2021	Forecast Total Spend 2020/21	Status	Rationale for Status or Variance	Comment
				RED	There has been no spend to date for <i>Te Aho Ngārahu</i> . 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.	The Ministry has met with all 30 successful applicants for <i>Te Aho Ngārahu</i> ; however, distribution of the full budget has been delayed. 9(2)(g)(i)
				RED	The <i>Rauemi</i> initiative has requested an Expense Capital Transfer of \$1.0 million at the March Baseline Update due to work prioritisation and capacity.	At the same time, the Ministry is ensuring all applicants return their signed Kawa Whanaungatanga and Licencing Agreements. This initiative is currently printing eight different resources, which will be distributed to Māori-medium kura over the coming weeks. 9(2)(g)(i)
				RED	There has been no spend to date for <i>Kura Whānau Reo</i> 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.	9(2)(f)(iv) 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 <i>Kura Whānau Reo</i> . The regional offices are currently working with their iwi and hapū to deliver this. Outcome agreements will be in place by June 2021.
12. Technology Support for School Children with Learning Support Needs	OpEx 1.0	OpEx 0.4	OpEx 0.8	AMBER	The Ministry is assessing applications or has committed funding for 79% of the total fund. 9(2)(g)(i)	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.
13. Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families (operating contingency)	OpEx 16.2	OpEx 9.0	OpEx 14.9	GREEN	The spend for the <i>Pacific Education Support Fund</i> and <i>Pacific Education Innovation Fund</i> will total \$12.1 million . By 30 April 2021, \$8.0 million had been paid to providers or accrued. 9(2)(g)(i)	The funding for the <i>Support</i> and <i>Innovation Funds</i> has been split by region to allow local decisions to be made. At the time of reporting, 165 contracts had been lodged in the system, with 14 further contracts remaining to be lodged.
				AMBER	The funding for <i>Evaluation of Targeted Support for Pacific Learners and Families</i> has been committed but is not yet reported as spent.	The contract for this initiative, valued at \$0.2 million , has been awarded to Malatest International. They are commencing the work in May 2021 and continuing until June 2022.
				RED	The spend for <i>Supports for the Translation and Distribution of Key Education Materials</i> is now indicating an underspend of \$0.9 million . 9(2)(g)(i)	There has been no progress on this initiative, as the material to be translated for parents and learners is being determined by the sector. The hard packs that were to be translated in the Pacific languages are no longer required.
				GREEN	The <i>External Professional Learning and Development for Early Learning Centres</i> initiative has been fully spent.	The \$0.5 million allocated for translated resources, such as books, for Pacific learners will be spent by 30 June 2021. \$0.5 million in funding has been transferred through a funding agreement to Otahuhu Primary School for the administration and delivery of Tautai o le Moana.
14. Sustaining the Early Learning Network (operating contingency)	OpEx 34.6	OpEx 0.8	OpEx Up to \$30 million (incl. re-prioritised funding)	RED	This fund, which was originally allocated \$206.0 million , returned \$171.4 million to the Treasury in March 2021 for a total of \$34.6 million in funding for the 2020/21 financial year.	Of the \$30.0 million remaining after funding was returned to Treasury, 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

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					The remaining \$30.0 million was reserved for the Early Learning Sustainability Grant. 9(2)(g)(i)	9(2)(f)(iv)
15. Targeted Support for At Risk Ākonga (operating contingency)	OpEx 22.9	OpEx 89.0	OpEx 14.2	GREEN	This is a material underspend. 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.	The first funding distribution for the <i>Enhanced Wellbeing Fund</i> and the <i>Temporary Extension for Ākonga who are Aging Out of Alternative Education</i> were completed in Term 4, 2020. All remaining funds will be spent before 30 June 2021 through the normal sequence of allocation.
				GREEN	The Ministry of Youth Development's component of this fund is valued at \$11.1 million . To date, \$1.6 million (14%) has been spent, and \$2.4 million is forecast to be spent by the end of the financial year. 9(2)(f)(iv)	Recruitment for the professional learning and development fund was completed March 2021. Funding for existing and developing bespoke professional learning and development commenced in March 2021.
16. Careers System Online: Tiro Whetū	OpEx 1.2 CapEx 8.5	OpEx 0.6 CapEx 4.8	OpEx 2.3 CapEx 5.1	GREEN	This initiative delivered the Minimum Viable Product tool in early 2021 as planned.	The build is progressing well, with the latest version launched on 22 April 2021.
					9(2)(g)(i)	
17. Adult and Community Education (ACE)	OpEx 2.2	OpEx 1.0	OpEx 1.8	GREEN	9(2)(f)(iv)	This initiative is on track to meet its overall goals.
18. Establishing Workforce Development Councils to Support COVID-19 Recovery	OpEx 4.0	OpEx 1.6	OpEx 4.0	GREEN	The highly consultative process used to develop the Orders in Council for the establishment of Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) led to the timeframe for their establishment differing from those expected at Budget 2020. Cabinet agreed to transfer \$42.0 million of the funding appropriated for WDCs to the Industry Training Fund, thereby reducing the 2020/21 funding for from \$46.0 million to \$4.0 million .	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.
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. 9(2)(g)(i) 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.

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20. Meeting Increased Learner Need for Tertiary Education	OpEx 79.5	OpEx 23.0	OpEx 79.5	GREEN	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. 9(2)(g)(i)	The final report on the deep dive workshops with the sector has been submitted to Minister Hipkins (METIS 1255737 refers). Funding confirmation letters that agree on the volume and value of delivery have been issued to TEOs. 9(2)(g)(i)
21. Support for Group Training Schemes to Retain Apprentices in Preparation of Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery	OpEx 16.1	OpEx 13.5	OpEx 16.1	GREEN	The next milestone reports are due in July 2021 for the period ending 30 June 2021.	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).
22. Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund	OpEx 160.0	OpEx 186.7	OpEx 214.8	GREEN	This initiative is on track.	9(2)(g)(i)
23. Transitional Industry Training Organisation and Workforce Development Council-Led COVID-19 Response Projects	OpEx 10.3	OpEx 2.3	OpEx 4.9	RED	9(2)(g)(i)	A total of \$9.2 million has been contracted for projects being undertaken by Transitional Industry Training Organisations. 9(2)(g)(i)
24. Critical Funding to Address Supplier Contractual Obligations Arising from The Impact Of COVID-19	OpEx 13.0 CapEx 38.0	OpEx 4.4 CapEx 1.3	OpEx 0 CapEx 0	RED	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 returning \$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.	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. 9(2)(g)(i) 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.
25. Enable Providers to Deliver Education Offshore and Develop Quality Assurance	OpEx 0.5	OpEx 0.2	OpEx 0.5	GREEN	The expenditure is tracking close to forecast. 9(2)(g)(i) This is being managed, but there may be a need to consider a small In-Principle Transfer.	
26. Te Mana Tuhono (Network-As-A-Service and Cybersecurity for Schools)	OpEx 5.8 CapEx 4.5	OpEx 2.4 CapEx 3.6	OpEx 3.5 CapEx 4.5	RED	9(2)(g)(i) 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.	N4L is experiencing recruitment challenges for the specialist resources needed in the Security Operations Centre. 9(2)(g)(i) The Ministry is progressively installing active ICT network management and monitoring equipment for all opted-in State and State-integrated schools. As at 30 April 2021, 277 installations had been completed with high levels of satisfaction, an increase of 38 installations since 31 March 2021.

Could the rest of this be re-purposed to cover cost escalation for capital projects?

Annex 1:

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

STATUS	DEFINITION
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.

Name (Descriptions in Annex)	Total Funding 2020/21	Spend to 30 April 2021	Forecast Total Spend 2020/21	Status	Rationale for Status or Variance	Comment
27. Ongoing Resourcing Scheme Cost Pressure for Teacher Aide Hours	OpEx 15.2	OpEx 14.7	OpEx 18.7	GREEN	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. 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.	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. 9(2)(g)(i)
28. Providing Digital Identity Required for Online Assessment and Learning	OpEx 2.6 CapEx 2.7	OpEx 1.2 CapEx 0	OpEx 1.6 CapEx 0	RED	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
29. International Education Strategic Recovery: Communications, marketing and brand awareness	OpEx 2.0	OpEx 0	OpEx 2.0	GREEN	This initiative will be delivered in 2021/22 to better align the timing and approach to New Zealand's border position and opportunity.	The Minister of Finance has approved an expense transfer of this funding to 2021/22.
30. International Education Strategic Recovery: Diversification of International Education Products and Services	OpEx 1.9	OpEx 1.8	OpEx 1.9	GREEN	This initiative is on track.	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.
31. International Education Strategic Recovery: Recovery Funding For NZ-Based Learners to Access English Language Courses	OpEx 1.5	OpEx 1.0	OpEx 1.5	GREEN	This initiative is on track.	This initiative is on track.
32. Maintaining Support for International Education (Export Education Levy funded activities)	OpEx 0	OpEx 0	OpEx 0	GREEN	This initiative is on track to start in 2021/22.	This relates to 2021/22 only.
C10 Funding to support schools to manage the immediate costs of COVID-19	OpEx 38.3	OpEx 21.4	OpEx 23.8		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. The Ministry is continuing to receive applications for costs relating to Alert Level changes, including day relief teachers.	All eligible applications have been funded, and this initiative is now closed. 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(f)(iv) Further funding is required to support school's daily operations and curriculum delivery to ensure that learners' outcomes are not affected.

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's households.
2	Increasing Trades Academy Places and Supporting Secondary Transitions This initiative provides funding for two components: 1) Increase in the volume of Trades Academy places by 1,000 places a year from 2021 ongoing. This is intended to give schools more options to meet the needs of their students during the expected economic downturn and it 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 and Certificated Teachers This initiative provides funding to reinstate a higher funding band for teacher-led, centre-based services (i.e. kindergartens and education and care centres) that 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.
6	Early Intervention: Te Kohanga Reo – Learning Support Initiative and Targeted Covid-19 Response 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 tamariki 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 tamariki 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. Initially 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 Maori 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 facilitation 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) Tautai 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.
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 jobs; it clarifies job-to-job flows, and raises confidence that their experience has given them 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 provides funding for building 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
26 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
31 International Education Strategic Recovery: Funding For NZ-Based Learners To Access English Language Courses
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.
32 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.