



## Education Report: Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards 2022 update, next steps for 2023

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>			
<b>Date:</b>	11 May 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1287326
<b>Drafter:</b>	Joey Sauer, Senior Adviser	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Simon Mandal-Johnson, Senior Manager, Teacher Supply	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

**Agree** to deferring the 2022 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards, and

**Agree** that we will provide further advice later in the year with a proposed approach and options for what a refreshed 2023 Awards might look like.

### Summary

- 1 In Feb 2022<sup>1</sup> we advised you that we proposed to delay opening applications for the 2022 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards due to the ongoing Omicron outbreak.
- 2 In that update, we advised that we would come back to you with a proposal for a 2022 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards, noting this may include delaying to 2023 to allow time to redesign and refresh the Awards.
- 3 We are now recommending to not hold the Awards in 2022, instead focusing our efforts on undertaking a review and refresh of the existing structure. By September this year we will propose our plans for a refreshed 2023 Awards.

<sup>1</sup> Education Weekly Update 17 February 2022

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **agree** not to hold the 2022 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards

**Agree /** Disagree

- b. **agree** that the Ministry of Education will provide you with a proposal, and options, for a refreshed 2023 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards by September this year.

**Agree /** Disagree

- c. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

**Agree /** Disagree



Anna Welanyk  
Hautū -Te Puna Ohumahi Mātauranga

18 / 05 / 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

10 / 6 / 2022

## Background

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- 1 In 17 Feb 2022 EWU, we informed you that this year's Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards would be postponed, given the pressure on the sector to respond the Omicron outbreak. We said we'd come back to you in June with a proposal for a 2022 Awards, noting this may include delaying to 2023 to review and refresh the Awards.

### 2022 Awards

- 2 The Ministry of Education and education sector are still focusing on the education response to the COVID-19 pandemic as the priority, so it is unlikely we would receive a high number of applicants. The Awards normally open for applications in February and are awarded in September.
- 3 The Awards have lost their momentum due to the cancellation of the Awards in 2020 and the shift to an online ceremony in 2021. This presents an opportunity to invest time in reviewing the existing format with an aim to making the Awards more accessible for schools, kura, early learning centres and kōhanga reo, and more rewarding for the participants.
- 4 To date, we have only received four enquiries from the sector regarding the 2022 Awards. This has given us further reason to believe there is little appetite for a 'compressed' Awards in the second half of this year.
- 5 Having considered what a compressed 2022 Awards might look like, we recommend cancelling the Awards in 2022.

### Opportunity to review and refresh the Awards

- 6 We are now recommending to not hold the Awards in 2022, instead focusing our efforts on undertaking a review and refresh of the existing structure.
- 7 We are developing our review and refresh to ensure the feedback you provided when we informed you of the 2021 finalists is addressed. You requested "more pro-activity around ECE, kura, kōhanga reo etc. to ensure we get a more balanced list of award recipients in future rounds." (METIS #1261903)
- 8 Our marketing and research partner, Stanley Street, will support the design of the refresh. Our priorities are to seek views from the frontline, incorporate feedback from previous Awards, honour Te Tiriti, and attract a greater diversity of applicants.
- 9 We intend to be clearer in the goals of the Awards, linking them into other initiatives. It is currently difficult to assert that the Awards are meeting the objectives to raise the status of the teaching profession, which is the intention. They do not attract much engagement beyond entrants or across the wider education sector and whilst they are considered prestigious, participation is limited.
- 10 The current format of the Awards is overly administrative and expensive and, given the unclear outcomes it achieves, it's likely this money could be better utilised to engage a wider audience and support a broader range of achievements.
- 11 We will deliver a plan for the refreshed Awards in September 2022, in time to announce the new format to schools, kura, early learning centres and kōhanga reo before the end of term 4 in 2022.

## Opportunities for 2023 Awards

- 12 During our initial review process, we have identified several opportunities to modify and improve the Awards in 2023 including:
- a) A new judging panel comprising of community leaders, parents, sector peers and students
  - b) Moving away from or scaling back the ceremony gala dinner, and possibly incorporating visits for yourself and/or the Prime Minister to present the awards at the winners' location where possible (allowing us to award greater prize money amounts to award winners)
  - c) Simplifying the application process to reduce barriers, including ECE and Māori medium settings, and utilising our Te Mahau teams and their existing knowledge to help identify the best applications
  - d) Updating categories and their criteria to be more clearly defined and compelling.
- 13 We will work with your office as the review and refresh progresses and will update you with recommendations on the design and format of the 2023 Awards by September this year.

## Proactive Release

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14. It is intended that this Education Report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.