



## Briefing Note: Growing the Supply of Proficient Te Reo Māori Speakers

<b>To:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education – (Māori Education)		
<b>CC:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	2 November 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	276314
<b>Drafter:</b>	Suzanne Allen	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Iona Holsted	<b>DD :</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this briefing note is to advise you of an initiative by Te Papa Kōrero to develop a plan, for Ministerial consideration, to grow the overall supply of proficient speakers to advance the objectives of Maihi Māori, Maihi Kaurana, growing Māori participation in Māori Medium Education and the expectation of the Public Service Act 2020.

**Noted**

### Background

- In April 2016, Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori (the Act) was enacted. The purpose of the Act is:
  - to first affirm the status of te reo Māori as the indigenous language of Aotearoa New Zealand; a taonga of iwi and Māori; a language valued by the nation; and, an official language of Aotearoa New Zealand;
  - and second, to provide means to support and revitalise te reo Māori.
- Under section 10 of the Act, the Minister for Māori Development must issue a Maihi Karauna Strategy. Under section 11 of the Act, Te Mātāwai must develop and approve a Maihi Māori Strategy.
- The Act created a unique partnership derived from Te Whare o Te Reo Māori model which identifies and describes the way that the Crown and Te Mātāwai work together to revitalise te reo Māori.
- Te Papa Kōrero is responsible for turning the respective intentions of both Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori into action.

## Competition for te Reo Māori speakers

- In addition to these two strategies that require a growth in the number of proficient te reo Māori speakers, the Government has recently committed to a target of 30% of Māori in Māori Medium Education by 2040. As noted in the Cabinet Paper, *A Work Programme to Grow Māori Medium and Kaupapa Māori Education*, this will require more than 3000-3500 additional teachers who are proficient in speaking te reo Māori, based on a ratio of 1:20 staff to learners.
- The 2020 enactment of the Public Service Act, with heightened expectations of greater understanding by the public service of te ao Māori including Te ao Māori concepts, knowledge and values, and te reo Māori have renewed demand for te reo Māori speakers in the public service.
- All of these goals are consistent, both with the Crown respecting te reo Māori as a taonga and revitalising te reo Māori. However, there is a risk that unless collectively we grow the pool of proficient speakers we will be competing across the goals.
- Current estimates, discussed at the meeting with Te Papa Kōrero, are that "the system" produces about 1700 (proficient) speakers a year – although measuring this is difficult. It is estimated that if we are to achieve the goals above, we will need somewhere in the order of 5,000 – 6,000 per year for education service, public service and community demand.

## Te Papa Kōrero Decision

- The challenge of growing the pool of proficient speakers is a regular topic at Te Papa Kōrero. At our meeting, in October, it was agreed that we would hold a wānanga before the end of this calendar year to begin to develop a plan for how we can grow the total pool of proficient te reo Māori speakers.

## Recommendations

Indicate whether you wish to discuss this proposal

☒ Yes ☐ No

OR

Note that Te Papa Kōrero is preparing a plan to grow the pool of proficient te reo speakers

☒ Noted

## Proactive Release

- a ☒ agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you and following announcement of decision.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Iona Holsted  
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Mātauranga  
Secretary for Education



Hon Kelvin Davis  
Associate Minister of Education -  
(Māori Education)

4 / 11 / 2021

13 / 11 / 2021