



Briefing Note: Talking points to support your meeting with the Tertiary Education Commission about improving outcomes for Māori learners

To:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education – (Māori Education)		
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Purpose and summary


This paper provides you with background information and talking points to support your meeting with Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Chief Executive, Tim Fowler, and Deputy Chief Executive Ōritetanga Learner Success, Paora Ammunson, via Zoom on 25 November 2021. This meeting follows TEC's recent paper to you about its whole-of-system approach to improve outcomes for Māori learners (**Annex 1**).

Proactive release


The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- agree** that this briefing note is proactively released following your meeting with the TEC, and with any redactions in line with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



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Access and Participation Policy
Te Puna Kaupapahere
18/11/2021



Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
22/11/2021

Background information to support your discussion

The Ministry of Education supports TEC's Ōritetanga Learner Success Approach

1. The Ōritetanga Learner Success Approach is about understanding all learners' needs and aspirations and supporting tertiary education organisations (TEOs) to redesign their business practices with learners intentionally at the centre. Ōritetanga is designed to address the bias and disparities that have resulted in the education system underserving certain learner groups.¹
2. The TEC has trialled Ōritetanga with four TEOs, including partners with large-scale Māori learner cohorts.² The TEC has indicated it is now looking to implement Ōritetanga at a national level, although it acknowledges that it will first need to change its own operating model to be "more equity-minded, culturally affirming, [and] learner and whānau centric."
3. The Ministry of Education supports Ōritetanga as a means to realise the objectives set by Government for tertiary learners through the Tertiary Education Strategy, Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia, Tau Mai te Reo, and the Action Plan for Pacific Education. Ōritetanga works in support of the objectives of learners at the centre, barrier free access, and excellent and equitable outcomes for all learners, with particular emphasis on honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and ensuring the aspirations of Māori learners are met.

Ōritetanga has been funded using underspends in Vote Tertiary Education, but questions remain about how it would be funded beyond 2021

4. In April 2019, Minister Hipkins issued a letter of delegating authority to the TEC to use up to \$2 million of underspends from Equity Funding on initiatives to improve equity outcomes in tertiary education. The TEC used this funding to support the Ōritetanga trial.
5. In June 2020, Minister Hipkins extended the delegation until 31 December 2021, allowing the TEC to use up to \$3 million of underspends from the Access to Tertiary Education appropriation. We expect the TEC has used this funding to continue testing Ōritetanga.

6. 9(2)(f)(iv)

7. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Ōritetanga and Te Hono Wānanga

8. Te Wānanga o Raukawa is one of the four TEOs included in TEC's trial of Ōritetanga. The TEC has indicated it has also worked closely with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and that its Ōritetanga work will need to progress at a different pace with each wānanga, depending on previous work and the nature of current relationships. The TEC would

¹ The TEC provided further detail about its Ōritetanga Learner Success Approach in its recent paper to you, included for your reference in **Annex 1**.

² The four TEOs included in the Ōritetanga trial are Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec), the University of Waikato, and Manukau Institute of Technology.

like to discuss with you how its work with wānanga can accelerate learner success outcomes and equity for Māori learners and whānau.

9. 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
10. 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
11. 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
12. Officials are due to meet with senior representatives of the wānanga sector for the regular inter-wānanga hui on 24 November.

The Māori Medium Education work programme

13. We understand that you are looking to publicly announce your work programme for the future of Māori Medium and Kura Kaupapa education in the next week. You may wish to discuss this work programme with the TEC, as part of the wider conversation about improving outcomes and equity for Māori learners in the tertiary education system. Talking points are included in **Annex 1**.

Annexes

- Annex 1:** Talking points for your meeting with the TEC
- Annex 2:** TEC paper: Whole of TEC approach to improve Māori outcomes (included as separate PDF).

Talking Points for your meeting with the TEC

Ōritetanga Learner Success Approach

- I appreciate the work you have done developing and trialling the Ōritetanga Learner Success Approach.
- The Government supports Ōritetanga as a means to realise the objectives set by Government for tertiary learners in the Tertiary Education Strategy, Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia, Tau Mai Te Reo, and the Action Plan for Pacific Education.
- The programme will help us to achieve our objectives of ensuring learners at the centre, barrier free access, and excellent and equitable outcomes for all learners.

Questions you may want to ask the TEC about Ōritetanga

- What input have Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and Te Wānanga o Raukawa had on the development of the framework? What particular recommendations did they have on how the framework honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and ensures the aspirations of Māori learners are met?
- You have indicated that the TEC is looking to implement Ōritetanga at scale. What would that look like?
- You also mention in your report the need for TEC to change its own operating model to be more equity-minded, culturally affirming, as well as learner and whānau centric in how you work. What changes do you have in mind?
- What work and initiatives have been progressed with Te Kāhui Amokura?

Update on the new Māori Medium Education work programme

- I am pleased to share an update with you on my Māori Medium Education work programme. This will have implications for the wānanga, which will be part of the pipeline to help grow the number of proficient te reo Māori speakers.
- Our Māori Medium Education is a Kaupapa Māori pathway that stands on its own. It is a pathway that holds its own mana motuhake, but until now the education system has stifled its growth, its ability to express its own tino rangatiratanga, its independence.
- For many years we have compared Kaupapa Māori Education with the mainstream system, including comparing wānanga to universities. The problem with this approach is that is difficult to compare and value two distinctively different education pathways.
- We know that ākonga Māori in Māori Medium Education settings achieve better outcomes than their peers in other education settings. In recognition and

acknowledgment of this, I am proposing an ambitious work programme focused on Kaupapa Māori Education alongside Matakāhuki, iwi, kaiako and ākonga.

- Cabinet has agreed to the development of a work programme for growing Māori Medium / Kaupapa Māori education in early learning and schooling, in conjunction with Māori.
- The work programme seeks to address the challenges across Māori Medium Education pathways so that our tamariki and whānau Māori can thrive and be confident in their own language and culture. This will include legislative change to ensure we create a system built with Māori, for Māori, and delivered by Māori.
- This is a change that kōhanga, kura and wānanga have fought for, and it is a change that whānau, hāpu and iwi, parents and Māori communities want. It is change all of us in the education system will deliver together.