



Briefing Note: Visit to Auckland Kindergarten Association AGM

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	17 November 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1299291
Drafter:	Katrina Hamill-Clarke	DDI:	09 632 9585
Key Contact:	Rachael Laurenson	DDI:	09 632 9340
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Briefing Note

- The purpose of this paper is to support the visit / speech at the Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki Auckland Kindergarten Association General Meeting in Tamaki Makaurau on 29 November 2022. The purpose of this invitation is to give a 5–7-minute speech about early childhood education in Aotearoa.
- A run sheet for the visit is attached, reference Annex 1.
- Speech notes are attached, reference Annex 2.

Key Contacts:

Auckland Kindergarten Association:

Chief Operating Officer	Pauline Winter
Phone Number	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Chairperson	Bruce McLachlan

Ministry Official/s:

Deidre Alderson or Rachael Laurenson.	Director of Education Manager - Education
Katrina Hamill-Clarke	ECE - Senior Advisor

Background Information of Auckland Kindergarten Association

- 1 Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) represents 107 Kindergartens throughout Tāmaki Makaurau with approximately 6000 children on any given day. The first kindergarten opened in 1908. AKA operate sessional Kindergartens, Care and Learning centres and Playgroups.

Background Information from AKA

- 2 The AGM provides the opportunity for parents and whānau to meet and exercise their constitutional rights in our democratic, charitable organisation, hear about early education, and see what our kindergartens are doing.
- 3 This year's theme is "Tautīnei" – to sustain. Early education and tamariki have been greatly impacted by the pandemic – nowhere in Aotearoa more than in Tāmaki Makaurau where we have endured multiple lockdowns and ongoing illness and are seeing a great deal of social disruption. We know from UNICEF and the latest OECD report on education that across the globe, there is a crisis for children resulting from the pandemic
- 4 We know that early education has a crucial role in providing tamariki with a sense of mana whenua, belonging, as well as providing skills to mitigate inequality and poverty. We believe that excellence in early education continues to be the right of all tamariki and we want to ensure full participation for our tamariki and whānau. We share this goal with this government and would like to hear about future directions.

Impact of COVID-19

- 5 Covid has had a major impact on ECE services including AKA, lengthy times spent in lockdown and at level 'Red' restrictions, impacted face to face engagement with tamariki and whānau. Centres were forced to utilise other methods of engagement e.g., zoom, online, learning packs, phone calls to maintain contact with whānau.

Other known risks or issues

- 6 The ECE sector is currently experiencing high teacher shortage across the country, however this appears to be worse in Tamaki Makaurau. The ECE sector is under enormous stress due to staff shortages, difficulty in recruiting and maintaining permanent quality teachers. The sector reports 'burn-out'.

Proactive Release

- a agree that the Associate Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you and the visit has occurred, with the following information.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Isabel Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro

17 / 11 / 2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
(School Operations)

20/11/2022

Out of scope

Annexes

Annex 1: Run sheet

Annex 2: Speech Notes

Proactively Released