



Briefing Note: Attendance and Engagement Package

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	9 November 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1299220
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with an update on the \$88m Attendance and Engagement package from Budget 2022

Summary

- All 6 funding streams from the Budget 2022 Attendance and Engagement Package are underway.
- The 3 cost-pressure funding streams (Incredible Years, Te Kura, and Attendance Services) have been allocated and spend will occur as per standard contracts and funding agreements.
- Initiatives for the Regional Response Fund are underway and spend is being allocated as investment decisions are made at a local level.
- The 2 remaining funding streams (PB4L School-wide, Te Mana Tikitiki and Check & Connect: Te Hononga) have completed internal recruitment and planning, with sector activities commencing with the beginning of the 2023 school year.
- Common delays to implementation have included allowing sufficient time for sector input and consultation, as well as the tight labour market for recruiting staff.
- Te Kura funding stream received additional budget for an evaluation (scheduled for 2025/26), and PB4L School-wide included funding for evaluation of the impact in schools, with all other funding streams being monitored or evaluated through existing mechanisms.
- Te Mana Tikitiki and Check & Connect: Te Hononga are estimated to benefit 1,300-1,400 learners, Te Kura 3,500 learners annually, and the Attendance Service 2-3,000 learners.
- The remaining three funding streams (Regional Response Fund, PB4L Schoolwide and Incredible Years) are targeted at schools or teachers, so we are unable to estimate number of learners benefitting.

Proactive Release

It is recommended that you:

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

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree.**



Susan Howan
Associate Deputy Secretary
Te Pae Aronui

09/11/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
(School Operations)

11/11/2022

Background

Budget 2022 Package

1. On 1 May 2022 you announced an \$88m package of targeted investment as part of Budget 2022, to make schools a place where all young people want to be, where they can access the support, they need and where there are ways back into learning for those who have disengaged.
2. The package consisted of six funding streams.
 - a. \$40 million over four years to establish a Regional Response Fund to meet local education needs, with a strong initial focus on ensuring students are going to school and are engaged in their learning.
 - b. \$11.2 million to deliver 14 new School-Wide practitioners so each school using this service receives high quality support tailored to their needs.
 - c. \$7.7 million to expand Check & Connect: Te Hononga and Te Mana Tikitiki, which provides targeted and intensive supports for Māori and Pacific learners at risk of disengaging, using Kaupapa Māori and bicultural evidence-based approaches.
 - d. \$7.8 million to address cost pressures in the Incredible Years programmes, to support caregivers, whānau, and school and early childhood educators to improve young children's communication skills and emotional regulation.
 - e. \$15.5 million to scale up Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu support for at-risk young people to reengage in school, in line with its proven 'Big Picture' approach.
 - f. \$6 million to help address current Attendance Service cost pressures and allow providers to increase capacity to support schools.

Request for update

3. On 2 November 2022 you requested a detailed update on progress for the Budget package, including the following for each funding stream.
 - a. How much has been spent to date? If none, then when will it be spent?
 - b. Has the programme started? If not, why not? If not, when?
 - c. Are there barriers that have been identified for this rolling out on time and on budget?
 - d. What are our plans to evaluate or measure the success of the funding stream and its reach?
 - e. Can we estimate how many learners will benefit?

Update on implementation of the package

\$40m Regional Response Fund

Spend to date

4. As of 4 November 2022 (for 22/23 FY):
 - \$1.105M Committed
 - \$1.824M Requested
 - \$7.071M Availablewith 98 active initiatives.

Programme start

5. Initiatives are underway. The Regional Response Fund is being used to fund evidence-based local solutions that are developed by those who know their school communities best and can respond to their needs. Schools, iwi and whānau, councils, community groups and providers are being funded to support new and innovative pathways back into education and responses to break the cycle of disengagement.

Barriers

6. Te Mahau staff are working with their local communities and education sector on the priorities for local investment, purchasing services that will support schools to improve their regular, moderately absent, and chronically absent attendance rates and achieve the related targets outlined in the Attendance and Engagement Strategy. Regions are working on different scales, quantity and scope of investment resulting in different pacing.

Plans for evaluation

7. Regional staff are managing their initiatives through the monitoring tool Salesforce. This tool is being used to record information on the scope, priority actions, stakeholders, ākonga equity, barriers and outcomes and evaluation. Current work is happening to collate this provided information into reports or dashboards for the relevant audiences, particularly at this stage to monitor spend.

Number of learners to benefit

8. We are not currently able to estimate the number of learners who will benefit. As a part of information recording, we highlight specific schools who are stakeholders in the initiative, meaning we can use school information where appropriate. We also highlight specific numbers of ākonga Māori, Pacific learners, disabled learners, learners with additional needs and learners who are isolated.

\$11.2m 14 new school-wide practitioners - Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

Spend to date

9. Recruited for the PB4L-SW refresh project team including 4 new positions to support the refresh and the regions with the implementation of PB4L initiatives. These positions start in November and December 2022.
10. Funding for the 14 new School-Wide Practitioners becomes available from mid-2023 and recruitment for these positions will begin once the funding is available.

Programme start

11. Project Plan on a Page has been approved by Minister Tinetti and the Project team is scoping the work programme including planning to invite sector representatives to the advisory and working groups. These groups will begin in early 2023.
12. Recruitment of appropriate staff in November and December has meant that the refresh project has not yet started in earnest.
13. Pre-planning has contributed to the approval of the Project Plan on a Page by Minister Tinetti and helped to identify the phasing for the project and the skills and resource required.

Barriers

14. Recruitment of the skilled staff within a tight labour market has taken longer than expected.

15. Availability of sector partners has been considered when balanced against the impacts of COVID on schools and other Ministry initiatives being released to the sector.
16. Current change programme within the Ministry National and Takiwā offices.

Plans for evaluation

17. PB4L School-wide is an existing initiative that has been available to schools since 2010. Evaluations show that PB4L School-Wide is a successful initiative and evaluation of the initiative will continue.
18. Budget 22 also provides funding for ongoing development and research for PB4L-SW and evaluation of the impact in schools. This will ensure the initiative can continue to be refined.

Number of learners to benefit

19. Currently PB4L-School-Wide is used in 1126 schools (approximately 45% of schools and Kura).
20. While the increased numbers of School-Wide Practitioners will not increase the number of schools able to access this support, it will improve the quality of support delivered to schools. The extra Practitioners will bring the average number of schools each of them is supporting from 41 down to 28.

\$7.7m Te Mana Tikitiki and Check & Connect- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) spend to date

21. Te Mana Tikitiki: We are working with Iwi to develop a training package for facilitators to support the implementation of the Te Mana Tikitiki resource in selected schools. We are currently sourcing a Kaupapa Māori learning provider to develop these training resources. We expect to have this provider confirmed by the end of the year.
22. Check & Connect: Te Hononga: We have been working with the Takiwā to support delivery in Auckland, Te Tai Tokerau and Canterbury in line with the funding available through B22. Through this funding we are able to support ten mentors in 10 schools. The funding agreements are currently being worked through with procurement and the Takiwā for sign off at the end of the year.
23. We have recruited a Specialist Service Lead starting at the end of November 2022 to support the implementation of both Te Mana Tikitiki and Check & Connect: Te Hononga.

Programme start

24. These initiatives are scheduled to start at the beginning of the 2023 school year.
25. Te Mana Tikitiki is a 10-week initiative so will be able to be implemented as the school year progresses.

Barriers

26. Te Mana Tikitiki will need to co-design the regional implementation with the six iwi and Te Takiwā. We will need to ensure that the Takiwā have the right people and time for this to occur, including our Maori staff with cultural capability to support this mahi.
27. Recruitment of the skilled staff within a tight labour market has taken longer than expected.

Plans for evaluation

28. The aim of these initiatives is to support students with increased attendance, engagement, and learning. As part of working in partnership with Iwi and regions, the Ministry is developing indicators to monitor the outcomes for these initiatives.

Number of learners to benefit

29. Te Mana Tikitiki: approximately 1000 students over four years.
30. Check & Connect: Te Hononga: Approximately 300-400 students over four years (note: Check & Connect: Te Hononga is a two-year support).

\$7.8m Incredible Years**Spend to date**

31. All of the funding has been allocated to the Takiwā and contracts have been signed with the NGOs to reflect the additional funding provided.

Programme start

32. IY is an on-going programme since 2010 and is available nation-wide. This funding supports the cost pressures that providers have faced for the previous 11 years due to contract pricing and disbursements costs not increasing.

Barriers

33. Challenges and barriers of procurement and financial transfers have been worked through and this has been actioned.

Plans for evaluation

34. No plans as this was a cost pressure bid. IY has existing system to monitor and evaluate the programmes.

Number of learners to benefit

35. Through this suite of programmes approximately 30,000 caregivers and 25,000 teachers have been supported since its inception. We expect 403 programmes to be delivered this year.

\$15.5m Te Kura**Spend to date**

36. Te Kura has allocated the \$1.5m of funding received for the period Jul-Dec 2022.
37. Te Kura has also put planning and budgeting in place for the \$3.8m of funding to be received for the period Jan-Dec 2023.
38. The funding is a top-up of the usual per EFTS funding for eligible ākonga enrolled through the non-enrolled, exclusion or expelled, psychological or psycho-social grounds, Oranga Tamariki, and young parent gateways. Funding is being allocated as per Te Kura's resourcing notice, at the new rates to eligible EFTS.

Programme start

39. This was an existing initiative; new funding rates have been applied from 1 July 2022.

Barriers

40. No barriers. Funding is distributed via existing resourcing notice.

Plans for evaluation

41. The additional Budget 22 funding will be monitored by the Ministry through reports received from Te Kura on how the new funding is being used to support at-risk ākonga and to meet the expected improvements for this group of ākonga. The reporting will focus on the engagement, progress, wellbeing, and pathway outcomes of at-risk ākonga who are intended to be supported by the additional funding.
42. Appropriation includes \$0.171 million for an evaluation of the outcomes from the initiative in 2025/26. Plans for this evaluation will be worked through closer to the time.

Number of learners to benefit

43. Programme will support around 3,500 at-risk ākonga annually once fully implemented.

\$6m Attendance Service**Spend to date**

44. From funding secured in Budget 22, 50% of this financial year's allocation (\$1.5m) has been allocated to existing Attendance Service providers. This is because contracts expire December 2022.

Programme start

45. This was an existing service. Funding has been included into existing provider baseline budgets and have also been factored into the new round of contracts for providers in 2023.

Barriers

46. No barriers. Funding is distributed through variations to contracts with existing providers.

Plans for evaluation

47. Attendance Service Annual Reports will be due to the Ministry in early 2023 where we will assess how providers have performed against key performance indicators outlined in contracts.

Number of learners to benefit

48. Funding was provided to support capacity building within attendance service providers. This is a demand responsive service; however, we estimate approximately 2000-3000 ākonga will benefit from extra support.