



Briefing Note: Update on the Online Curriculum Hub

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- **Note** the update on the Online Curriculum Hub project which is an essential part of the curriculum and assessment work programme and the services of Te Poutāhū.
- **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**

Summary

- The Budget 2021 Reform of the Tomorrow's Schools System initiative included funding for a new digital platform, the Online Curriculum Hub (OCH - working title) that will replace Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI) and enhance Kauwhata Reo. The OCH will be a new, innovative and practical platform that will support changes to teaching practice as our work programme strengthening curriculum and assessment progresses over the next five years.
- The OCH will be the online front door of Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre) and will enable improved services and supports for teachers and kaiako, as well as for ākonga, families and others supporting learning. It will combine curriculum content and resources from early childhood to senior secondary levels spanning three curricula:
 - *Te Whāriki. He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa and Te Whāriki a te Kōhanga Reo - Early childhood curriculum*
 - *The New Zealand Curriculum*
 - *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.*

- We have completed the procurement process and signed a statement of work with Microsoft. This will deliver an extensible platform to publish curricula and resources and enable integration with the Ministry's other systems.
- An initial release of OCH is intended to occur in Term 3 2022. This release is planned to include Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā, the refreshed Social Sciences content and resources for the NZC and resources and tools to support wellbeing. This release will also have updated quality content migrated from the TKI, Kauwhata Reo and Te Whāriki websites so that there is a representative set of quality content for all curriculum areas.
- We will keep you updated as key milestones in this work programme are reached.

Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

5/10/2021

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

10/10/2021

Background

1. Access to high quality curriculum resources for learning and teaching on digital platforms is an important component of strengthening the delivery of the national curriculum. The Ministry's existing digital platforms, Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI) and Kauwhata Reo, are not currently fit for purpose [METIS 1246035 refers].
2. Budget 2021 confirmed funding for a new digital platform, the Online Curriculum Hub (OCH - working title), that will replace Te Kete Ipurangi and enhance Kauwhata Reo. This is part of the Reform of the Tomorrow's Schools System initiative, which includes establishment of Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre).
3. The OCH will be online front door of Te Poutāhū and will improve the services / supports we offer teachers and kaiako. Its development will reflect a culture of open engagement of those working with tamariki and rangitahi and will both support and challenge them to achieve equity and excellence.
4. This briefing provides an update on the Online Curriculum Hub project. We have now started the development stage following successful procurement of a technical vendor.

Overview of the OCH

5. The OCH will be a new, innovative and practical platform that will support changes to teaching practice as our work programme strengthening curriculum and assessment progresses over the next five years. It will be a digital curriculum repository containing reliable, actively managed and quality assured curricula, curriculum resources and materials to support the quality teaching and learning.
6. The OCH will combine curriculum content and resources from early childhood to senior secondary levels spanning three curricula:
 - a. *Te Whāriki. He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa and Te Whāriki a te Kōhanga Reo - Early childhood curriculum¹*
 - b. *The New Zealand Curriculum*
 - c. *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.*
7. The back end of the platform will enable resources to be 'tagged' to reflect the unique characteristics of each curriculum while also showing how elements of each curriculum link to each other across the learning pathway. This will be a significant improvement for teachers and kaiako as they will be able to readily search for the resources they need to support their teaching and learning intentions, regardless of which curriculum or combination of curricula they are using.
8. Content and resources from the Inclusive Education website <http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/> will be migrated to the OCH and presented as part of the curriculum in an integrated manner with guidance on inclusion incorporated into resources.
9. The solution will cater for multiple audiences. The primary audience is teachers, kaiako and educators with secondary audiences of students, parents, whānau, communities and iwi. The solution will enable access through te reo Māori and English, and we expect that the design will enable multiple languages in the future. The user interface will meet current accessibility standards and be able to accommodate new interaction technologies.

¹ Note that, at this stage, we have not worked directly with the Te Kohunga Reo National Trust Board about where their resources might be housed in the future. We have indicated our intention to work with their Te Korowai (curriculum) team.

10. Ease of use and easy access to the OCH will be key to its success. The planned benefits of the OCH from stakeholder perspectives are listed below:
 - a. **Educators** will find it easier to access quality curricula and learning resources. They will have access to enhanced tools to localise the curricula, share resources, collaborate, comment on, and contribute to curricula and learning resource creation.
 - b. **Children, Learners, Parents and Whānau** will have more visibility and understanding of teaching, learning and curricula so they can be active partners in education.
 - c. **Ministry (and supporting stakeholders)** will be able to improve its management of rationalised curricula and learning resources with effective quality management, resource lifecycle management, rights management, and systems support.

Progress to date

11. A Request for Information (RFI) was released in March 2020 to inform the Request for Proposal (RFP) which was released in July 2020. There were a very low number of respondents to the RFP and no suitable solutions were proposed. The RFP procurement phase closed without awarding a contract.
12. The second phase of procurement was a closed competitive dialogue process with invited vendors. Following this, in April 2021, the Ministry entered a Discovery phase with the preferred vendor Microsoft. The output of this phase was Microsoft's proposed delivery scope, timeline and costs. A procurement recommendation to proceed with Microsoft was approved in early August 2021. The statement of work with Microsoft for the implementation of the OCH was signed on 21 September 2021.
13. The OCH will be implemented using the combination of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Commerce solution and Microsoft Teams. It will be supported by Microsoft's Cloud Azure which will be used for storage and cognitive services. This will provide the Ministry with an extensible platform to publish curricula and resources in support of teachers, kaiako, students, and parents and whānau. The platform will enable integration with the Ministry's other learning management systems using standards-based interfaces.
14. We are working closely with teachers and kaiako throughout the project so that we get this right. As the online front door for Te Poutāhū it is important that the OCH makes a difference to their everyday experience accessing and using our curriculum services and resources. Due to the phased development and implementation, it is also important to ensure initial releases reflect the curriculum materials and resources teachers and kaiako will find useful.
15. Alongside the technical design and build, work is underway to identify suppliers who will work with us and teachers and kaiako to curate quality curriculum resources. The suppliers will review resources, identify resources suitable for migration to the OCH, update resources to ensure alignment with the intent of the national curricula and ensure alignment with current publishing and accessibility standards. We will also prepare to archive resources that are no longer fit for purpose.

Timeline for delivery of the OCH

16. An initial release of OCH is intended to occur in Term 3 2022. This is planned to include Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā, the refreshed Social Sciences content and resources for the NZC and resources and tools to support wellbeing. This release will also have updated quality content from the TKI, Kauwhata

Reo and Te Whāriki websites so that there is a representative set of quality content for all curriculum areas.

17. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
18. The phasing of the refresh of the national curriculum will be the driver the new content that will be delivered with subsequent releases of the OCH. As *The New Zealand Curriculum* and *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* are refreshed, new updated content will be available to the sector.
19. NCEA related content will be migrated to the OCH following the completion of the NCEA review programme. Teachers and kaiako have told us that they do not want to navigate new websites to find the resources they need as they work with both old and new achievement standards and supporting materials.
20. It is intended the legacy TKI websites and Kauwhata Reo will be decommissioned once required content has been migrated from these sites.
21. The OCH will readily facilitate the maintenance of content and addition of new content as required into the future without the need to develop new websites for new initiatives that require new resources.

Key Risks

22. Work on user needs identified the desirability of OCH providing collaboration spaces where teachers within and across learning settings can localise curriculum resources to meet the needs and interests of their learners. This would also enable co-design with communities, whānau and iwi. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
23. To realise the full benefits of the OCH, digital inequities need to be addressed to ensure equitable access by ākonga and whānau. This will need to be an important consideration for next steps in the wider Digital Strategy for Education.

Next Steps

24. We will keep you updated as key milestones in this work programme are reached.

Proactive Release

25. We recommend that this Briefing 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.