



## Briefing Note: Ngarimu VC and 28<sup>th</sup> (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board Meeting 20 October 2022, C Company observer

<b>To:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
<b>CC:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	8 October 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1273720
<b>Drafter:</b>	Suze Strowger	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Suze Strowger	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

At the request of your office, the purpose of this report is to seek a decision as to whether you agree to the C Company sending an observer to attend the Ngarimu VC and 28<sup>th</sup> (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board (the Board) meeting scheduled for 20 October 2021. A full briefing for this hui [METIS 12726666 refers] has already been sent to your office.

### Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that as Chair of the Board you:

- Note** the Board meeting is on Wednesday, 20 October 2021 from 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Room 2.1 EW Parliament Buildings in Wellington. This meeting can be run by zoom if required
- Note** that Dr Monty Soutar resigned as C Company representative on the Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2021
- Note** on the 7<sup>th</sup> September you wrote to Walton Walker as Chair of the Ngā Taonga a Ngā Tama Toa Trust seeking expressions of interest for the appointment as C Company's representative

**Noted**

**Noted**

**Noted**

- d. **Note** that the Secretariat contacted Mr Walker on 4 October to seek an update on their progress

**Noted**

- e. **Note** that while the C Company appointment process is pending, Mr Walker has offered to cover the meeting on 20 October

**Noted**

- f. **Note** that there is no allowance in the Ngarimu 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Act 1945 for substitution when members cannot attend or if there is a vacancy

**Noted**

- g. **Agree** to Mr Walker attending the Board meeting as an observer

**Agree / Disagree**

If (g) is not preferred then,

- h. **Agree** that the Secretariat advise Mr Walker that the Act does not allow for substitutes, but that the minutes will be forwarded to him for his interest

**Agree / Disagree**

- i. **Agree** that the Secretariat advise the Ngā Taonga a Ngā Tama Toa Trust that they have until 5 November 2021 to provide expressions of interest to you as Board Chair

**Agree / Disagree**

- j. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you, with paragraph 6 withheld due to expectations of confidentiality and because it concerns an appointment process that is under active consideration

**Agree / Disagree**



Suze Strowger  
**Director Programmes**  
**Te Puna Rangatōpū**

08/10/2021



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

10/10/2021

## Background

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1. The Ngarimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board (the Board) was established in 1945 for the purpose of granting assistance for the education of any Māori, or for the purpose of promoting the study and encouraging the maintenance of the Māori language and of Māori history, tradition, and culture.
2. The quorum necessary for any Board meeting is five members, of whom three must be members appointed by the Governor-General. There are six positions appointed by the Governor-General, one of which is currently vacant. They are:
  - a. Dr Te Tuhi Robust, A company representative,
  - b. Dr Reuben Collier MNZM, B company representative,
  - c. Current Vacancy, C company representative,
  - d. Dr Melanie Riwai-Couch, D company representative,
  - e. Linda Te Aho, past Ngarimu Scholarship recipient, and
  - f. Phillip Heeney, whānau representative.
3. There will be a quorum on 20 October 2021 and all current Governor-General appointees are attending the Board meeting.
4. Dr Monty Soutar resigned from the Board after the last Board meeting on 2 July. You have written to Dr Soutar thanking him for his tenure.
5. You wrote to the Ngā Taonga a Ngā Tama Toa Trust in September to ask if they wish to put forward a nominee. The Trust is the kaitiaki of C Company's achievements, history, and memorabilia. The Trust's Chair is Mr Walton Walker.
6. **9(2)(f)(iv)**
7. According to the Ngarimu 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Act 1945 there is no allowance for substitution when members cannot attend or if there is a vacancy. As Chair, you may decide it appropriate to invite Mr Walker to attend the Board meeting as an observer (with no voting rights) so that C Company are kept informed of the mahi.
8. This also recognises that replacing Dr Soutar is a considered process which may take some time.
9. To ensure that C Company's nominee would be in place for the Ngarimu Awards and associated Board meeting next year (March 2022) the Secretariat proposes contacting Mr Walker to request the Trust provide any nominees by 5 November 2021.

## Proactive Release

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1. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Some information will need to be withheld and will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.