



## Briefing Note: Update on rephasing New Zealand Curriculum Refresh at Cabinet Business Committee meeting on 1 November 2021

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>CC:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	29 October 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1275220
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- **Note** talking points for an oral item on the rephasing of the refresh of *The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC)* at Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) on Monday 1 November 2021.

**Noted**

### Summary

You are updating CBC on Monday 1 November about the decision to rephase the refresh of *The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC)*.

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

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree



Ellen MacGregor-Reid  
**Hautū | Deputy Secretary**  
**Te Poutāhū (Curriculum)**

29/10/2021



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

29 / 10 / 2021

**The national curriculum for schooling is being refreshed to ensure all ākonga experience rich and responsive learning**

- A five-year programme to refresh *The New Zealand Curriculum* (NZC) and redesign *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* is underway. Together these two documents make up the national curriculum for schooling and underpin all learning in schools and kura including as part of NCEA.
- The redesign of *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* is being progressed through a holistic and integrated approach based on an authentic Māori-centred design and engagement process.
- The refresh of the NZC is being undertaken in phases, starting with the Social Sciences learning area where the new Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content will sit.
- All schools and kura will be using the refreshed national curriculum from 2026.
- Alongside this, a rich record of learning for each ākonga and their whānau is being developed.

**As part of the Refresh Programme, the Ministry actively monitor the readiness of the sector for change**

- I asked officials for advice on rephrasing options for *The New Zealand Curriculum*, in response to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, to enable greater alignment across the strategic work programmes, and reduce the impacts on schools, kura and their workload.
- The Curriculum Voices Group has expressed some concern about the pace of change, particularly alongside the NCEA changes, but there is also positivity about the refresh and maintaining the focus it brings to curriculum and pedagogy.
- They have also highlighted the importance of prioritising refreshing the other parts of the NZC, such as the vision for young people, which underpin it being refreshed as 'bicultural and inclusive'.
- Concerns have also been raised about the phasing of work to develop a Record of Learning, which was started before the decision to refresh the national curriculum was made. Now that the curriculum is being refreshed, it makes more sense for the timing of the Record of Learning to be adjusted so it can be based on the refreshed content.

**I have agreed to rephase the refresh of *The New Zealand Curriculum* to respond to sector feedback**

- The key change is to the phasing of the refresh of learning area content:
  - The Social Sciences learning area refresh (which has already begun) will now continue through to 2022.
  - The English, and Mathematics and Statistics learning areas will still be refreshed in 2022.
  - The refresh of the Science learning area shifts from 2022 to 2023.
  - The Technology, and Arts learning areas will still be refreshed in 2023.
  - The refresh of the Learning Languages, and Health and Physical Education learning areas shift from 2023 to 2024.
- Changes to other parts of the NZC which underpin it being refreshed as a 'bicultural and inclusive' curriculum will all be progressed in 2022, rather than being spread through to the end of 2023. This includes a refreshed Vision for Young People.
- The phasing of the development of the Record of Learning has been aligned to the refresh of the curriculum, with the first release planned for 2024.
- Schools will still be supported to begin using the refreshed NZC from 2026.
- The Curriculum Voices Group considered that the impact of slowing the pace of the refresh of the learning area content could be mitigated by an early focus on

understanding and using the new content model exemplified in the draft Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content. This will enable the sector to more quickly understand and integrate changes to learning area content.

### **Redesign of *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa***

- There is no change to the phasing of the redesign of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa as the phasing of learning areas will be aligned to the redesign process around the Te Tamaiti Hei Raukura conceptual framework.

### **I expect this decision to be received well by most of the sector**

- Feedback on the new content model for NZC learning areas has been positive, and I expect the sector to value having more time to focus on understanding that deeply and unlocking its power for local curriculum design through a smaller number of learning areas first.
- Progressing the refresh of the English, and Mathematics and Statistics learning areas quickly is an important part of the Literacy and Mathematics strategies, which I will be bringing to CBC for consideration later this year.
- Bringing forward the work on the 'bicultural and inclusive' framing, with a change and implementation focus from 2023, will support teachers to explore and begin earlier the cultural shifts in teaching practice for inclusion and equity.

### **Next steps**

- This will be announced this week (week commencing 1 November).
- The Ministry will be testing the draft Social Sciences learning area content and draft Vision for Young People early next year, alongside paper prototypes for the Record of Learning.