



Briefing Note: Highest Needs Review Announcement

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	29 September 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1271049
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with:

- Possible schools to announce the Highest Needs Review Scope and Terms of Reference;
- A draft press release; and
- Reactive questions and answers to support the announcement.

Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education proactively release this briefing with appropriate redactions if necessary after it has been considered by you.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree.



Helen Hurst
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

29/09/2021



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

03/09/2021

Background

1. The Highest Needs Review Scope (the Review) and Terms of Reference have been agreed by Cabinet [CAB-21-MIN-0356].
2. Your office requested potential schools in Tauranga and Rotorua for you to visit to announce the Scope and Terms of Reference for the Review by the end of September.

Options to Announce the Review

School site visit

3. We would recommend a Rotorua site for the launch, if you agree, as Ministerial learning support visits have been less frequent to this city and there are some excellent school practices worth acknowledging. The Regional Office identified three possible schools in Rotorua. They are:
 - a. Westbrook School
 - b. Ngongotaha Primary School
 - c. Kawaha Point School
4. All three of these schools have been identified for their excellent inclusive practices in supporting all children to be able to participate, progress and achieve. The practices in these schools align with the inclusive principles of the Review.
5. The Regional Office has noted that schools in the region are still focused on supporting children and young people's return to school following Covid-19 alert level changes. If a site visit could be considered early in Term Four, this would be appreciated by the schools.
6. To mitigate any timing risk in progressing phase two of the Review, a virtual announcement may be an alternative option worth considering. An online announcement may also be more accessible for a number of people who this review relates to, for example disabled people and young people.

Next Steps

7. Once you have decided about where and when you would like to make the announcement, we will work with your office to arrange a site briefing, if required, to support your visit.

Annexes

Annexes withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)

Annex One: Draft Press Release: Highest Needs Review Scope and Terms of Reference

Annex Two: Draft reactive Questions and Answers: Highest Needs Review Scope and Terms of Reference

Proactively Released