



Education Report: Response to Boarding Allowances petition

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	16 September 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1282099
Drafter:	Joshua Thurston	DDI:	04 463 8894
Key Contact:	Alanna Sullivan-Vaughan	DDI:	04 463 8414
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to agree the proposed Government response to the Petitions Committee Report on increasing the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance, and to circulate the attached draft Cabinet Paper for agency and Ministerial consultation.

Summary

- Ms Ava Simeon is a student at Halfmoon Bay School on Stewart Island / Rakiura. Ms Simeon put forward a petition seeking an increase to the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance as a student in a community which does not have a local high school.
- The Petitions Committee has considered the petition and recommended an increase be made to the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance from within the current fixed appropriation. Standing Order 252 requires the Government to provide a response to the House of Representatives by 31 October 2022.
- Government has recently approved an 8% increase in both allowance rates, to take effect from January 2023. This increase has used up the fiscal headroom within the appropriation that supports Boarding Allowances. Therefore, while the Committee's recommendation is possible, it would require either reducing allowance volumes, or reducing the value of the Multiple Barriers Boarding Allowance which is funded from the same appropriation, neither of which are recommended.
- Any changes to boarding allowance funding would therefore need to be considered through the Budget process. We have provided a draft Cabinet Paper and Government Response in line with this recommendation.
- 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 6 We seek your agreement to agency and Ministerial consultation on the attached draft Cabinet Paper and Government Response

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that a petition to increase the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance has been considered by the Petitions Committee, and that the Government is required to respond

Noted

- b. **note** that Government has recently approved an 8% increase to boarding allowance rates, to take effect from 1 January 2023

Noted

- c. **note** that further increases to the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance within the current fixed appropriation (as suggested by the Committee) would require reducing the number of allowances available or reducing the value of the Multiple Barriers Boarding Allowance, neither of which is recommended

Noted

- d. **agree** that further changes to boarding allowances are most appropriately considered as part of a Budget process

Agree Disagree

- e. **agree** to circulate the attached draft Cabinet Paper and Government Response for agency and Ministerial Consultation


Agree Disagree

- f. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once the Government Response has been provided to the House of Representatives

Agree Disagree.


John Brooker
Group Manager Te Puna Kaupapahere

16/09/2022


Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

30/ 9/ 2022

Annexes

- Annex 1: Draft Government Response to Report of the Petitions Committee on The Petition of Ava Simeon: Increase the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance
- Annex 2: Draft Cabinet Paper: Government Response to the Report of the Petitions Committee on the Petition of Ms Ava Simeon to Increase the Access Barrier Boarding Allowance