



## Education Report: Release of the Learning Support Coordinator Phase 3 Evaluation

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	8 September 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1294772
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin:</b>	Yes

### Purpose of Report

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The purpose of this report is to provide you with the final Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) Phase 3 Evaluation Report (evaluation report).

This report also provides information about next steps including the release of the evaluation report.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** the final LSC Phase 3 Evaluation Report **Noted**
- b. **note** that the LSC Phase 3 Evaluation report provides useful information and insights on the impact of the LSC role and opportunities to further improve the effectiveness of the role for the tranche 1 LSCs and any future roll out of the LSC role **Noted**
- c. **note** that the Ministry will communicate the release of the evaluation to all principals of schools and kura allocated LSCs and provide notifications through Ministry publications **Noted**
- d. **agree** that this Education Report will be proactively released with any information withheld in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Susan Howan  
**Associate Deputy Secretary  
Strategy and Implementation, Te Pae Aronui**

8/09/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

10/09/2022

## Background

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1. The LSC evaluation has been conducted in three phases:
  - Phase 1 of the evaluation covered the establishment and early implementation of the LSC role in 2020
  - Phase 2 focussed on how LSCs engage with whānau, support transitions, work across schools, and support Māori and Pacific learners
  - Phase 3 has focused on the value of LSCs in their schools and clusters. This phase also includes a Kaupapa Māori approach to understand the LSC role in Māori medium settings.
2. On 18 March 2021, you released the LSC Phase 1 evaluation report at Newlands Intermediate School.
3. The LSC Phase 2 evaluation report had a soft release in November 2021.
4. The LSC Phase 3 evaluation report is now finalised and is ready for release. The report is attached as **Annex 1**. A one-page A3 visual summary is also attached as **Annex 2**.

## Evaluation findings

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5. The evaluation findings are positive and affirm that the LSC role is largely making the intended difference to learning support in schools and clusters allocated LSCs in the first tranche.
6. Key findings of the Phase 3 evaluation were:
  - the LSC role is established, working as intended and generating the initial outcomes expected for schools
  - identification and visibility of learning support needs are improving
  - LSCs are helping to build teacher and kaiako confidence and capability to work with whānau and their ākonga with learning support needs
  - LSCs enhance the relationship whānau have with schools, particularly with primary schools
  - effective cluster level leadership impacts how effectively LSCs carry out their functions across the cluster
  - most teachers, LSCs, schools and kura surveyed have expressed high levels of satisfaction with the role, especially when the LSC operates within a single school
  - inconsistency of the facilitation function expected of the Ministry's Service Managers, and the delay in the standardised Learning Support Register (sLSR on Te Rito) has impacted collaborative endeavour across clusters
  - role clarity across multiple early learning services me ngā kōhanga reo, schools, and kura has been a challenge and has resulted in lower satisfaction when the LSC role is shared as a cluster resource
  - in a cluster with both English Medium and Māori Medium schools and kura, sharing the LSCs does not always work well, because of different world views

- recruiting LSCs that are competent in te reo Māori me ona tikanga has been difficult
- opportunity for Māori to have autonomy over the design and set-up of the role for Māori Medium was highlighted.

## Responding to the findings of the LSC Phase 3 Evaluation Report

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7. The LSC Phase 3 Evaluation Report builds on the findings of the Phases 1 and 2 Reports. It provides useful insights into the positive impact the role is having for learners and educators, The Report provides information about opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the current tranche 1 LSCs, and findings that will inform advice on any future tranches or roll out of the LSC role. The Report has a specific focus on how to improve the effectiveness of the role in supporting ākonga, whānau and kaiako in Māori medium and Kaupapa Māori settings.
8. For the tranche 1 LSCs, the findings suggest that we can better support LSCs through building the understanding of sector leadership about the role and their role in supporting LSCs influence within individual schools and at the cluster level including Early Learning Services me ngā kōhanga reo. The Reports identifies a need for greater consistency, building on what is working well, in how the Ministry's facilitation function supports LSC and cluster level planning, prioritisation and responses.
9. The accountability of clusters and employing schools for ensuring the role is delivering against the funded role description also requires consideration, now that the formal evaluation period for the role has ended.
10. Specific actions to respond to the short-term opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the LSC role will be developed with Te Mahau Takiwā and will be included in the LSDM Work Programme, which we will provide to you later this month.

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## Proposed approach to the release of the LSC Phase 3 evaluation report

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12. The Ministry's response to the key findings will be through coordinated national communications to the sector, regional action with learning support clusters, and workstreams within the LSDM Work Programme.
13. As part of the Ministry's communication plan a link to the evaluation report will be sent to all principals of schools and kura allocated LSCs and notified through Ministry publications such as the He Pānui Kōhungahunga | Early Learning Bulletin, He Pitopito Kōrero | Bulletin for School Leaders, and Te Karere on Te Tāhuhu.
14. The Ministry will offer to brief NZEI Te Riu Roa, the New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association/Te Wehengarua (PPTA), and the Education Review Office (ERO) on the LSC Phase 3 Evaluation Report.
15. The Ministry will also notify key stakeholders in the Disability Sector that the evaluation report is available online.

## Proactive release

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16. We recommend that this Education Report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Proactively Released

## Annexes

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Annex 1: Learning Support Coordinator Phase 3 Evaluation Report  
Annex 2: A3 Visual Summary

Proactively Released