



Education Report: Draft Cabinet Paper Highest Needs Review: Report back to Cabinet

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	8 September 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1294065
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round robin:	No

Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper is to seek a discussion with you on the attached draft Cabinet Paper: Highest Needs Review Report back to Cabinet.

Summary

1. You agreed to the seven building blocks for a mixed model approach to supporting learners with the highest needs and noted the key shifts required to implement this level of change [METIS 1288003 refers]. We have now completed an initial draft Cabinet Paper for discussion with you.
2. The Cabinet paper seeks agreement to the direction of travel for a new system of learning support for children and young people with the highest needs and to progress the building blocks for change. Because the new system will require new investment, we are keen to discuss with you what decisions should be sought from Cabinet at this point.
3. The draft Cabinet paper provides a summary of the findings from the Highest Needs Review (the Review), including the results of public engagement, the Social Wellbeing Agency work and the ERO review of education for disabled learners.
4. The draft Cabinet Paper notes that changes will need to occur over the medium to long-term due to the significant findings from the review and the level of change required to ensure the desired future state. Given the size and scope of change, and the need for significant ongoing new investment, the Ministry has begun to develop a Business Case, which will inform the medium to longer-term implementation. The Ministry recommends you report back to Cabinet by June 2023 with a business case driven detailed work programme to support implementation of the mixed model over the next two, five and ten years.

5. In the interim, the draft Cabinet paper proposes short-term investments to improve the current system or to test features of the new mixed model approach that will support the future system. The Ministry noted some of these short-term investments in the previous Education Report, which have been further refined for the Cabinet paper. All but one short-term investment noted in the previous Education Report have been included in the draft Cabinet paper.
6. Progressing these short term investments would require funding through Budget 2023. We understand that the Budget 23 process for new initiatives will be based on invitations from Budget Ministers, so progressing these items would require their endorsement.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **discuss** the draft Cabinet paper with us prior to us preparing a next version for Departmental consultation and discussion with other education Ministers

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

Proactive Release Recommendation

- b. **agree** that this Education Report is not released at this time as it is subject to Ministerial decision and future Budget consideration.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree


Ben O'Meara
Group Manager
Te Puna Kaupapahere

08/09/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

10/09/2022

Background

1. On 5 August 2022, you agreed to progressing the seven building blocks for a mixed model approach to supporting learners with the highest need and some shorter-term system investments into a Cabinet paper for an October report back [METIS 1288003 refers].

Draft Cabinet paper

2. A draft Cabinet paper is attached as Annex One for your review and feedback. It provides Cabinet with a summary of findings from the Highest Needs Review (the Review), including the public engagement, the Social Wellbeing Agency analysis of unmet need and the ERO review of education for disabled learners.
3. The seven core building blocks are significant changes, and signal the extensive work required to enable an innately capable system for learners with the highest learning support needs. A system that seeks to meet learners needs as they are identified would be quite different from the system we have now, which is based on applications for support as a way of rationing resources.
4. Creating a system that can meet more needs will involve medium to longer-term changes, which require time to develop and implement. Given the size and scope of change, and the need for significant ongoing new investment, the Ministry has begun to develop a Business Case.
5. The Ministry will undertake further implementation planning as a part of the Business Case process. This process will help inform the way forward for the new system. We recommend you report back to Cabinet by June 2023 with a detailed work programme to support implementation of the mixed model approach over the next two, five and ten years.
6. In the meantime, the Ministry has developed a package of shorter-term system investments. The package includes shifts that are currently underway and pave the foundation for the future system. For example, the Learning Support Delivery Model (LSDM) and Te Tūāpapa o He Pikorua are the practice models and frameworks being implemented as the platform which the future system can be built from.
7. The package also includes shifts that would move us closer to the future system and begin to test features of the mixed model approach. These are the initial steps before the model could be extended more widely into all areas of highest needs provision over time.

8. 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 9.

10. The Ministry will continue to advance the following shifts in the short-term system, as they contribute towards achieving the future system:
 - a. Further implementing the LSDM and Te Tūāpapa o He Pikorua.
 - b. Reviewing how schools are funded for teacher aides.
 - c. Work to Reduce wait times for Early Intervention Services.

Other short-term investments

11. 9(2)(f)(iv)

12.

Next steps

13. We would like to discuss the attached draft Cabinet paper with you at the agency meeting on 12 September. We would particularly like to discuss what level of decision to seek from Cabinet now given the investment needed to progress implementation, related inter-agency alignment (e.g. in particular the alignment of the connector | kaitūhono role with Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People); and any announcements on the Highest Needs Review, which could be phased.
14. Once we receive your feedback, we will update the paper for agency consultation and for discussion with other education Ministers.

Annexes *(attached separately)*

Annex 1: Draft Cabinet Paper Highest Needs Review: Report back to Cabinet

Annex 2: Appendix to Cabinet Paper: Overview of Mixed Model Approach

Annexes withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)