



Minutes

Early Learning Regulatory Review Sector Advisory Group meeting

Date	Tuesday 10 May 2022, 10:00am-11:00am
Venue	Teams meeting
Chair	Paul Scholey, ECE Senior Policy Manager - MOE
Attendees (Ministry)	Clea Matthews, Policy Work Programme Manager Duncan Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst Francisca Knarston, Assistant Policy Analyst Jonno Ingerson, Manager School Network Kahu Rapira-Davies, Graduate Policy Analyst Kim Nathan, Senior Policy Analyst Laurie Edwards, Communications Lead Natasha Kuka, Managing Principal Peter Mellor, Chief Policy Analyst
(Members)	Allanah Clark, Early Childhood Adviser, NZEI Te Riu Roa Calmar Ulberg, CEO, Counties Manukau Kindergarten Association Cherie Marks, Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Edmund Mah, General Manager, Evolve Education Group Fiona Hughes, Dep., CEO, BestStart Educare Heather Taylor, General Manager, Barnardos Jill Bond, CEO, New Zealand Kindergartens Raewyn Overton-Stuart, Managing Director, PAUA Ruth Jones, National Support Manager, Playcentre Sarah Alexander, CEO, ChildForum Simon Laube, CEO, Early Childhood Council
(Secretariat)	Josh Kennedy, Project Coordinator - MOE
Apologies	Andrew Philips, CEO, Provincial Education; Arapera Royal Tangaere, Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust; Catherine Bell, Senior Policy and Engagement Advisor, Te Rito Maioha; Cathy Wilson, Chief Executive, Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand; Pauline Winter, General Manager, Auckland Kindergartens Assoc.; Susan Bailey, Principal Advisor, Playcentre.

Note: These notes capture the themes of the discussion and key points made. They do not necessarily represent a shared view of the group and there may be differing perspectives on some points. They are not intended as comprehensive minutes of the meeting.

Welcome and karakia
Network Management consultation and discussion
<p>MOE presented on the priorities for regional and national statements (refer to the accompanying PowerPoint). Further information is available in the consultation document available online.</p> <p>Approval for the exclusion of Māori medium immersion services from the requirement to seek network management approval is currently going through the Cabinet process with more details to be provided publicly</p> <p><i>Questions/general discussion relating to the presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General response from the group that they were pleased to see their input from last year’s workshops reflected in the proposals especially relating to the strong focus on Te Tiriti obligations, Pacific services and those targeting refugee and migrant communities • What sort of feedback is MOE expecting to receive in the Pacific fono next week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Pacific fono is targeted to Pacific early learning services. Based on previous engagement, these events are well attended and are an opportunity for Pacific stakeholders to raise questions of specific importance and express their views in a constructive environment. It is likely they will raise matters outside of scope and those will be answered where possible. • What can MOE do to better regulate small but persistent groups of non-compliant providers and encourage compliance by new entrants under the new provisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed new requirements will evaluate the fitness of those proposing to set up a new early learning service to mitigate the risk of non-compliance. MOE acknowledge the need to do more to help lift and drive quality of existing provisions. ○ Sector feedback indicates a strong need to look at quality settings and associated funding settings which will potentially fall within regulatory approach work over the next 12-18 months. • Tranche 3 work to commence shortly and run into 2023. Tranche 3 includes looking at ratios, group size and the overall regulatory approach toward the sector, including MoE’s regulatory stewardship role. • Network management approval is not dependent on meeting a priority – identified community need is equally strong. • Discussion around priorities of TAP funding and school site based ECEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the future TAP funding could be redesigned to better align with network management. This would not be done in any way that disadvantages kōhanga reo or other Māori immersion services ○ The policy team will follow up around the current process for allocation of highly desirable school sites.

- Other important priorities raised by the sector include:
 - Community involvement (such as social services)
 - Employment conditions
 - Availability of staff
 - Playcentre's unique role in educating parents as well as children

MOE encourages the group to formalise this feedback as part of the consultation which is currently underway. The link to consultation can be found [here](#).

Next steps post-consultation

- Cabinet and legislative process:
 - Seek Cabinet approval for policy settings
 - Cabinet approval to draft regulations
 - Target date of August/September 2022 for publication.

General regs review update and next SAG meeting

Briefly touched on during the general discussion i.e.:

- MOE advised that the work relating to person responsible, and the 80% requirement are underway.
- More discussion needed to understand if and how the group might want to be involved as the policy process transitions to operationalisation and implementation.
- Tranche 3 includes looking at ratios, group size and the regulatory approach toward the sector. MoE is interested in the group's view on prioritisation and framing of Tranche 3 work which is currently being scoped up to commence shortly and run into 2023.

Next Sector Advisory Group meeting to be held (via MS Teams) once Ministers have made decisions on the person responsible and 80% qualified proposals.

End

Early Learning Regulatory Review

Second Sector Advisory Group meeting (for those who were unable to attend)

Date	Tuesday 17 May 2022, 11:00am-11:45am
Venue	Teams meeting
Chair	Paul Scholey, ECE Senior Policy Manager - MOE
Attendees (Ministry)	Clea Matthews, Policy Work Programme Manager Kahu Rapira-Davies, Graduate Policy Analyst Natasha Kuka, Managing Principal
(Members)	Catherine Bell, Senior Policy and Engagement Advisor, Te Rito Maioha Cathy Wilson, Chief Executive, Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand Susan Bailey, Principal Advisor, Playcentre
(Secretariat)	Josh Kennedy, Project Coordinator - MOE

Note: These notes capture the themes of the discussion and key points made. They do not necessarily represent a shared view of the group and there may be differing perspectives on some points. They are not intended as comprehensive minutes of the meeting.

Welcome and karakia
Network Management consultation and discussion
<p>MOE presented on the priorities for regional and national statements (refer to the accompanying PowerPoint). Further information is available in the consultation document available online.</p> <p>Approval for the exclusion of Māori medium immersion services from the requirement to seek network management approval is currently going through the Cabinet process with more details to be provided publicly</p> <p><i>Questions/general discussion relating to the presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are bi-cultural centres (at least 50% Māori) treated under the network management framework? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These types of centres will be given priority under the new proposal. To be exempt from network management the service offered needs to be at or near full Māori immersion or associated with a peak body. The exemption criteria is still going through Cabinet and we will update our website as soon as a decision has been made. • For network management, when does the 24-month timeframe commence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 24-month timeframe commences from the date of approval. The timeframe is currently being relooked at and we will advise once a decision has been made. • If network management is revoked, will it say why publicly? What about for declined network management applications? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revocations, including the reasons why will be published publicly. We are looking at whether we can publish declined decisions due to privacy constraints. • How will an application for network management be made? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Likely to the Ministry on an application form (to be confirmed). The Ministry will be involved in the preparation of the application as the Secretary of the Ministry is required to conduct a fit and proper test, and an initial assessment of financial viability. • Tranche 3 work to commence shortly and run into 2023. Tranche 3 includes looking at ratios, group size and the overall regulatory approach toward the sector, including MoE's regulatory stewardship role. <p>MOE encourages the group to formalise this feedback as part of the consultation which is currently underway. The link to consultation can be found here.</p>
General regs review update and next SAG meeting

Briefly touched on during the general discussion i.e.:

- MOE advised that the work relating to person responsible, and the 80% requirement are underway.
- Tranche 3 includes looking at ratios, group size and the regulatory approach toward the sector. The intention is to loop the Sector Advisory Group into discussion once we have clear direction from the Minister.

Next Sector Advisory Group meeting to be held (via MS Teams) once Ministers have made decisions on the person responsible and 80% qualified proposals.

End