



## Education Report: Options to defer Aotearoa New Zealand's histories

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	14 October 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1274449
<b>Drafter:</b>	Stephanie McHardie	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Pauline Cleaver	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- **Agree** to the proposed approach for progressing the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories work programme.
- **Indicate** your preferred implementation date.

### Summary

- 1 The Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o te Wā curriculum content was due to be approved by Cabinet and published during October 2021. You have asked us for advice on adjusting the timeline to accommodate the current challenges resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 2 The sector and communities are currently expecting to see final curriculum content before the end of this month. The sector needs to have some certainty about what is happening and what is expected of them for 2022 and therefore timely communication about the way forward is essential.
- 3 We recommend adjusting the timeline so that you take the final curriculum content to Cabinet in early 2022 and defer issuing the Gazette notice until mid-2022 with a formal transition through to 1 January 2023 for implementation by schools and kura. There is the option of extending the formal transition period through until 1 January 2024.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **Note** that the current COVID-19 outbreak has placed considerable pressure on the Government and education sector and that it is not possible to meet the original implementation timeframes for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o te Wā.
- b. **Note** that Cabinet originally directed Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga to develop curriculum content to be implemented in all schools and kura from 2022 [CAB-19-MIN-0455 refers].
- c. **Agree** to reset the timeline for progressing the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories work programme so that the final content is considered by Cabinet in early 2022 and the timeframe for implementation extended.

Agree /  Disagree

- d. **Indicate** your preferred implementation date:

i. 1 January 2023, with no formal transition period.

Agree /  Disagree

ii. 1 January 2023 with a formal transition period to 1 January 2024.

Agree /  Disagree

- e. **Note** that, for schools, these implementation timings align with when the rest of the refreshed Social Sciences learning area is expected to be available.

- f. **Agree** to take an oral item to Cabinet to confirm your preferred implementation timeframe.

Agree /  Disagree

- g. **Note** that we will rephase the implementation plan to reflect your preferred implementation timeframe.

- h. **Note** that we will work with your office to develop communications about this change.

- i. **Agree** that this paper will not be proactively released as part of the regular release cycle, and that it is instead released with any necessary redactions as part of communications activities associated with timeline changes.

Agree /  Disagree

*Pauline*

Pauline Cleaver  
**Acting Hautū | Acting Deputy Secretary**  
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

*Chris Hipkins*

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

14/10/2021

27/10/2021

## Background

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1. You have requested advice about delaying the release of the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o te Wā curriculum content.
2. The current COVID-19 outbreak in New Zealand has placed considerable pressure on communities and government. It is no longer reasonable to expect all schools and kura to be able to understand and implement new curriculum requirements.
3. This paper outlines a revised approach and seeks your direction on how long schools and kura will have to prepare for implementation. It also outlines the risks we are now facing due to delays with finalising the curriculum content.

## Proposed approach

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4. When this work was first introduced, Cabinet directed Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga to develop content to be implemented in all schools and kura from 2022 [CAB-19-MIN-0455 refers]. The current implementation plan is based on you issuing a notice in The New Zealand Gazette following Cabinet consideration of the final content. The draft Gazette notice would have set an expectation that all schools and kura would use the new curriculum content from 1 January 2023, providing a formal transition period during 2022 to allow the sector time to prepare for, and progress, their implementation at a pace suitable to them.
5. To date, we have developed and publicly consulted on draft content, and amended this based on feedback received. We have also published a report, *Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories: What you told us and how we're responding*, which broadly outlines the changes we have made. Alongside this, we have made considerable progress in developing a suite of supporting curriculum resources and establishing professional supports for the education sector. You can find a summary of the work to date in the last Education Report prepared for you in September [METIS 1266719 refers].
6. The next step in the process is to seek agreement from Cabinet that the curriculum content can be published and implemented. A draft Cabinet paper about this has been shared with agencies and is with your office for consideration.
7. Following Cabinet's agreement on next steps, we would need about eight weeks to prepare the final content for distribution. Due to supplier availability at this point in the year, the earliest we will now be able to begin printing the hard copy materials is mid-January 2022.
8. We are already several weeks behind schedule due to the delay in going to Cabinet. This has meant that we are already unable to meet our original deadline of going live with the curriculum content in October. Releasing the content and resources in November or later will not give schools and kura enough time to prepare and plan adequately for successful implementation beginning in 2022.
9. Taking into consideration the current COVID-19 situation and the challenges resulting from the delay, we recommend that you reset the Cabinet date for early 2022 and extend the timeframe for implementation by schools and kura.
10. We believe that it is important to make the content available as soon as possible in 2022. Therefore, we suggest taking the final content to Cabinet at the start of 2022 so that we can then begin the process of publishing and distribution from the end of Term 1 2022.

This would mean that those schools and kura who are well-placed to pick up and use the new content will have the option to do so from Term 2.

11. We then propose to you defer issuing a notice formally issuing the final content in The New Zealand Gazette until mid-2022, for implementation from 1 January 2023.
12. We will work with all schools and kura for the remainder of 2022 to support them to access the resources and support they need to be ready to teach the new content from 2023. For schools, this aligns with expected timeframes for the rest of the refreshed Social Sciences learning area to be available, meaning that schools will be able to see and use the new and refreshed learning area content as a whole.
13. There is an option for a formal transition period to 1 January 2024. This would give schools and kura an extra year to work towards implementation at a pace that works for them. You may not consider this necessary given the long lead-in time schools and kura will have to engage with the content from Term 2 2022.

### Next steps

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14. Should you agree to this approach, we will work with your office to support you to take an oral item to Cabinet to confirm your preferred implementation timeframe.
15. The sector needs to know what they are expected to be delivering in the new year. We will act quickly to communicate the adjusted timeline once decisions are made.

16. 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

### Proactive Release

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17. We recommend that this Education Report is not released as part of the regular release cycle and is instead proactively released as part of communications activities associated with changes to timelines. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.



## Briefing Note: 'Closing the loop' on the Aotearoa New Zealand histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā consultation

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education – Māori Education		
<b>Date:</b>	31 August 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1269718
<b>Drafter:</b>	Hannah Betts Terina Tairea	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Pauline Cleaver Kiritina Johnstone	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this briefing note is for you to:

- a **note** that the Ministry intends to publish reports summarising and responding to consultation feedback on the Aotearoa New Zealand histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā draft curriculum content.

**Noted**

- b **agree** that this briefing note is proactively released as part of communications activities following Cabinet decisions on the final curriculum content.

**Agree**  **Disagree**

*Pauline*

Pauline Cleaver  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Early Learning and Student Achievement



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

31/08/2021

6 / 9 / 2021

## Background

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1. From 3 February to 31 May this year, the education sector and the public were invited to provide feedback on the draft Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content for *The New Zealand Curriculum* and Te Takanga o Te Wā curriculum content for *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*.
2. Public consultation included both a public survey and in-school testing. Feedback gathered from these engagements has been independently analysed and summarised for the Ministry by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research and Te Paetawhiti.

## Description of the reports for publication

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3. We intend to publish the independent analysis reports alongside a summary report written by the Ministry. Copies of the reports are attached as Annexes 1 – 5.
4. The Ministry's overarching summary report *Aotearoa New Zealand's histories – what you told us and how we're responding*, describes how the Ministry intends to respond to each key theme identified across the consultation.
5. The independent feedback reports include:
  - a. Summary analysis of school and kura feedback (Te Paetawhiti). This report summarises feedback from kaiako and teachers about the curriculum frameworks and content. The detailed analysis from Te Paetawhiti will be available on request.
  - b. Classroom and akomanga trialling of draft content (NZCER and CORE Education). This report analyses and summarises the reflections of over 100 kaiako and teachers who were supported to trial the draft content.
  - c. Findings from the public engagement on the draft curriculum content (NZCER). This report analyses and summarises feedback from the online public survey alongside notes from more than 90 hui, fono and wānanga across the country. The full report and a summary report will be released.

## Contents of the overarching summary report

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6. As you are yet to decide on the final content and take it to Cabinet, the overarching summary report does not pre-empt any decisions. The report does, however, provide the Ministry's general directions for change based on the feedback we received, and the development process agreed with key stakeholders.
7. The key themes identified across all types of feedback and testing were:
  - a. There was excitement and support for the content, along with suggestions for improvements
  - b. People saw strong links between the draft content and their identity, culture and citizenship.
  - c. People supported the focus on Māori histories, and want to see more of our multicultural histories in the final content.
  - d. People were excited about greater partnership between kura, schools, hapū and iwi but resourcing and support is needed
  - e. People emphasised the large amount of support that kura and schools will need.
  - f. People had differing views about the nature of history.
8. Public misconceptions about the purpose of the national curriculum were identified. The report, therefore, clarifies the purpose of national curriculum, marau ā-kura and local

curriculum, and notes opportunities for the public to learn more about the upcoming refresh of the national curriculum.

### Aspects of the reports that are expected to attract public interest

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9. Due to the diversity of perspectives across engagement groups, we sought advice and guidance from our reference groups on how to respond to feedback. Their advice has informed the final iteration of the curriculum content. 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]
10. Many responses to the draft content advocated for a more Eurocentric view of history. The nature and make-up of Aotearoa New Zealand society has changed significantly over time and revisions to the curriculum content recognise these changes. The overarching summary report notes this, 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]
11. Many respondents noted the strength of support available to educators and communities – in particular to marae, iwi and hapū – would be critical to successful implementation. This feedback was particularly strong from the teaching community, which also noted their apprehension at the short timeframe to prepare for delivery.
12. 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]

### Communications

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13. These reports will be published by the Ministry of Education rather than your office. The Ministry will prepare all communications products for these publications, including reactive communications products.

### Next Steps

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14. We plan to publish these reports on [education.govt.nz](http://education.govt.nz) in the week of 6 September 2021.
15. We are continuing to work towards you taking the final curriculum content to Cabinet at the end of September, so that it is available in term four and schools and kura have time to begin planning for implementation over 2022. We intend to provide an Education Report with a draft Cabinet paper and the final content to you by 2 September 2021.

### Annexes

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|----------|---|
| Annex 1: | Overarching summary report: <i>Aotearoa New Zealand's histories – what you told us and how we're responding</i> . |
| Annex 2: | Summary analysis of school and kura feedback  |
| Annex 3: | Report on classroom and akomanga trialling  |
| Annex 4: | Findings from the public engagement on the draft curriculum content.  |
| Annex 5: | Summary report on public testing.   |

**All Annexes available online at [education.govt.nz](http://education.govt.nz)**