



## Education Report: International Student Wellbeing Strategy 2020 funding recipients

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	24 January 2020	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1217596
<b>Drafter:</b>	Emily Fatu, Policy Analyst, International Education, GAVC	<b>DDI:</b>	N/A
<b>Key contact and number:</b>	Suzanne Townsend, Senior Manager, International Education, GAVC	<b>DDI: :</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin</b>	No

### Purpose of report

This paper provides information on the International Student Wellbeing Strategy funding round and provides a media release should you wish to announce the recipients of funding for the 2020 year.

### Summary

The International Student Wellbeing Strategy (ISWS) is designed to ensure international students are protected as well as enhancing New Zealand's reputation as a safe and welcoming study destination. The ISWS funding comes from the Export Education Levy and is used to support initiatives that align with its mission and strategic priorities.

ISWS funding is allocated annually through a collaborative model. The theme for the 2019/20 funding round was *international student diversity and inclusion*. This was included in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack.

A total of 21 initiatives are being funded 7 small (less than \$15,000) and 14 large (more than \$15,000). These initiatives cover: providing legal advice, peer support and mentoring programmes, leadership training, mental health resources, and inclusive activities with a focus of integrating international students into their local community.

We have attached a media release should you wish to announce the recipients of funding for the 2020 year.

### Recommended Actions

1. The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that 21 initiatives are being funded as part of the ISWS 2020 funding round at a total cost of \$871,087 paid using finances from both this and next year's allocated EEL funding.
- b. **agree** to issue a media release to announce the 2020 recipients of the International Student Wellbeing Strategy funding.

Agree / Disagree

#### Proactive Release Recommendation

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- c. **agree** that this Education Report is proactively released

Agree / Disagree



Belinda Himiona  
Group Manager  
International Education

24/01/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

13/2/20

## International Student Wellbeing Strategy

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1. The International Student Wellbeing Strategy (ISWS) sets out focus areas for government agencies that are working to support international students, and is designed to ensure international students feel welcome, safe and well, enjoy a high quality education, and are valued for their contribution to New Zealand.
2. Annual funding of \$750,000 is allocated from the Export Education Levy (EEL) to support initiatives that deliver on the outcomes of the ISWS. An annual funding round is completed and from 2019/20, has two funding streams to ensure a diversity of applicants and scope of initiatives:
  - Small projects up to \$15,000, and
  - Large projects over \$15,000.
3. The Collaborative Working Group, whose membership is made up of sector representatives, sets the annual theme for funding, evaluates proposals and makes recommendations for the Ministry of Education's approval.

### 2020 funded initiatives

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4. The theme of the 2020 funding round is *international student diversity and inclusion*. This theme was chosen in the wake of the Christchurch terror attacks.

### 2019/20 Initiatives

5. The Ministry received 43 applications, of which 7 small and 14 large initiatives are being funded (see Appendix 1). Applicants will be formally advised of the outcomes before the end of January.
6. These initiatives cover providing legal advice, peer support and mentoring programmes, leadership training, mental health resources, and inclusive activities with a focus on bringing international students together with domestic students and their wider local community in New Zealand. These balance the type of organisation, diversity of providers in the international education sector, target group and geographical location.
7. The total cost of the initiatives is \$871,087 which is over the allocated \$750,000. Overspend on projects from the large fund (\$143,292) will be met by 2020/21 funding and will allow larger projects more time to achieve their outcomes. The Ministry plans to review the time period for initiatives and the application process before the start of the 2020/21 funding round begins. This will review calendar vs financial year requirements and the benefit of funding larger multi-year projects.
8. The Ministry intend to notify successful and unsuccessful applicants before the end of January. You may want to note that SIEBA, a project supported by ISANA, are amongst the unsuccessful applicants. SIEBA are the New Zealand peak body for schools supporting international students in the education sector. The Ministry tried to negotiate re-scoping of their proposal but we had methodology concerns.

### Next steps and communication

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9. You have signalled that you would like to announce the outcome of ISWS funding for 2020. Attached is a draft media release (Appendix 2). Should you wish to make the announcement, we will work with your office to confirm a date.

## Annexes

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Appendix 1: ISWS Initiatives for 2019/20

Appendix 2: Draft media release

Proactively Released

Appendix 1: ISWS funded initiatives for 2020

Organisation	Location	Focus	Funding
<b>Small fund (under \$15k)</b>			
Eastern Institute of Technology	Hawke's Bay, Auckland, Gisborne	Peer-mentoring model for international students; using senior international students to guide new international students through the process of settling in and adapting to student life in New Zealand.	\$14,633
University of Canterbury	Canterbury	Many international students come from countries where rivers and coastlines are gentle or not very accessible, where driving can be different and access and use of the great outdoors is much less part of regular life. This initiative offers safety certification courses to engage in New Zealand's society and environment.	\$8,469
Aspire2	Nationwide	An innovative online game that introduces international students to Māori Tikanga and an understanding of biculturalism in New Zealand.	\$15,000
Westlake Boys High School	Auckland	Raising student wellbeing through a parenting support project for international student residential caregivers.	\$9,900
Study Northland	Northland	Global citizenship ambassador program that will initially work with international and domestic students providing opportunities for them to strongly connect with Northland's culture, environment and community.	\$15,000
Universal College of Learning	Palmerston North	An evidence-based facilitated, educational, social and peer-to-peer support network (exchange network) for international students to improve health outcomes, and avoid feelings of loneliness and social isolation. A key component of 'The Exchange Network' is the monthly facilitated workshops, information sessions and seminars.	\$15,000
Wellington College	Wellington	Over the last few years the Wellington International Student Association (ISA) has reached out to the wider Wellington region to include and provide activities for international students from other schools. The funding will help the association roll out its organisation to collaborate as a regional high school ISA. The core focus of the association is to support and promote diversity and understanding by making connections throughout the community.	\$15,000
<b>Large fund (over \$15k)</b>			
ISANA year 3	Nationwide	ISANA assist those directly and professionally engaged in the provision of international education services by providing networking and information exchange, facilitating professional development, building links and connections and recognising the interests and rights of international students.	\$100,000
Canterbury and New Zealand Business Association	Canterbury	International Student Legal Clinic & International Student Experience Programme. The programme will run workshops to support students to gain an overview and understanding on their rights living in New Zealand, covering topics such as immigration; employment; tenancy and general contracts. They are hoping to run the workshops in Hamilton, Dunedin and Wellington also.	\$100,000
The Canterbury Communications Trust Plains FM	Canterbury	Steudaemonia is an international student-led radio show/podcast series involving a wide variety of students across multiple dimensions of diversity. Students will train in broadcasting skills and the design, delivery and production of informative radio shows/podcasts in various languages focussing on topics of inclusion and diversity, and the four pillars of the ISWS.	\$39,312
Asian Family Services	Wellington	Project Connect is a new initiative led by Asian Family Services which aim at addressing current gaps in supporting Asian international students' mental wellbeing and social integration into New Zealand society. This will include a number of interactive workshops held to develop international students' intercultural communication skills, and provide information on health, safety and support services. It also aims to produce a resource pack giving key messages from the workshops, and a mental health brief intervention resource to enhance mental health literacy, promote early help-seeking and provide advice about addressing lifestyle risk factors and self-care.	\$78,000
Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology	Nelson	Establish series of interactive workshops to empower students to maintain their holistic wellbeing through Te Whare Tapa Whā.	\$63,000
Learning Hawke's Bay	Hawke's Bay	Create Information seminars, one on one sessions and student ambassadors to support international students in Hawke's Bay.	\$24,900
Aspire2	Nationwide	This project creates digital resources that tertiary providers can access and use to create a high-quality orientation and induction programme for their international students. It establishes a framework or 'hub' providing free short courses, handbooks, videos, web links, questionnaires, discussion boards, commonly asked questions etc., that tertiary providers will be able to access and personalise.	\$25,000
New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) leadership	Nationwide	Workshops for international student leaders across New Zealand, including NZISA executives, local university International Students' Officers and cultural clubs' executives.	\$44,000
NZISA female leadership	Nationwide	Promotion of leadership and entrepreneurship amongst female international students. NZISA will host focus groups, deliver a conference, entrepreneurial pitch competition, and support for female entrepreneurs to develop their skills and develop the mindset of these students.	\$104,585
Auckland, Tourism, Events and Economic Development	Auckland	Mixed groups of international and domestic students from Auckland tertiary institutions specialising in art will enter proposals to create murals around Auckland.	\$20,000
Study Northland	Northland	Connecting international and domestic students with the authentic life experiences that we associate with being 'kiwi' and growing up in New Zealand.	\$50,000
Silverline Otago	Otago	Silverline is a student-led movement creating content and events to creatively get students engaged in mental health and wellbeing. They aim to produce a video series inspired by the 'The Skin Deep Experience' to open up conversation and break stigma around mental health and wellbeing. They also plan to run workshops, and a festival with a line-up of speakers that reflect the diversity of international students.	\$71,838

Unitec Institute of Technology	Auckland	Delivering an on-campus Māori cultural experience for new international students within the first six weeks of arriving. This experience seeks to provide an experience that creates and nurtures a sense of self and belonging and strengthens emotional wellbeing that will support their living and learning experience in New Zealand.	\$27,450
University of Canterbury Muslim Students Association	Canterbury	In the wake of the Christchurch mosque attack, the University of Canterbury Muslim Students Association propose to host events that promote diversity and inclusion for all faiths, races and cultures. Some of these events include orientation, international guest speakers, self-defence lessons, bbqs, and mental health workshops.	\$30,000
		<b>Small projects total</b>	<b>\$93,002</b>
		<b>Large projects total</b>	<b>\$778,085</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$871,087</b>