



## Briefing Note: *New He Whakaaro | Education Insights* paper: 'What do we know about discrimination in schools?'

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|---|---|---------------------|---------|
| <b>To:</b>                                    | Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education   |                     |         |
| <b>Copy:</b>                                  | Hon. Tracey Martin, Associate Minister of Education<br>Hon. Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education<br>Hon. Jenny Salesa, Associate Minister of Education |                     |         |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 26 June 2019  | <b>Priority:</b>    | Medium  |
| <b>Security Level:</b>                        | In Confidence   | <b>METIS No:</b>    | 1193948 |
| <b>Drafter:</b>                               | Andrew Webber   | <b>DDI:</b>         | 9(2)(a) |
| <b>Key Contact:</b>                           | Craig Jones   | <b>DDI:</b>         |         |
| <b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b> | Yes   | <b>Round Robin:</b> | No      |

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

- Note** that the latest *He Whakaaro | Education Insights* paper is on the topic of discrimination against students in schools.
- Note** that while the Ministry is able to publish the paper on Education Counts at any time, there is an opportunity to align the release with our wider communications approach to support the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy that is expected to be announced by the Government in mid July.
- Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

**Agree** / **Disagree**

### Summary

- The latest *He Whakaaro – Education Insights* paper explores what we know about students reporting experiences of discrimination at school. This combines new analysis by the Ministry using the Youth2000 survey of secondary school students with previously published research from other authors.
- The report finds that students are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, migrant status, religion, sexual or gender identity, disability or health status, and weight.
- The nature of this discrimination as well as its source (other students or teachers) differs depending on the identity group. Anti-discrimination strategies that do not acknowledge these differences may be less effective.

- The Ministry plans to release this *He Whakaaro* on the Education Counts website in July and communications messages and questions and answers are attached.
- We will liaise with your office on the planned release date, communications and any further material required.



Dr Craig Jones  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Evidence, Data & Knowledge**

26/6/19



Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

31/7/19

Released Under the Official Information Act 1982

## Background

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1. The *He Whakaaro/Education Insights* series on the Education Counts website aims to provide relevant and insightful evidence and to provoke further thought and discussion on key education issues. The series is for Ministers, policy analysts, people working in the programme and intervention area, educators interested in knowing more about education evidence and data, as well as the general public.
2. One of the initial focus areas of the Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is that children should live free from racism and discrimination. This paper synthesises what we know about discrimination experienced by children and young people, and where possible, attempts to quantify the number of people affected by discrimination.

## Key findings

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3. The key findings of this insights paper are:
  - a. Māori, Samoan and other Pacific students are far more likely to report discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity from adults than from their peers, with unfair teacher behaviour the most frequently reported issue.
  - b. Indian, Chinese and other Asian students report low rates of bullying overall, but are far more likely than other ethnicities to report bullying motivated by ethnicity.
  - c. The most common discrimination faced by migrants and religious students is related to their ethnicity.
  - d. About half of all LGBTQIA+ students report having ever been bullied, and about one in five transgender students report being bullied on a weekly basis.
  - e. LGBTQIA+ students are less likely to agree that teachers are fair to students most of the time – two-thirds of transgender students report that teachers are 'hardly ever' or only 'sometimes' fair.
  - f. Disabled students and students with health conditions make up more than a quarter of all students, and experience substantially worse bullying outcomes than their peers (for a range of discriminatory reasons).
  - g. Both under- and overweight students report being targeted for bullying because of their weight, although neither group reports higher rates of bullying than other students overall.
  - h. Both data collection and policy are more likely to be effective if they recognise that bullying and discrimination are related but distinct concepts; discrimination often occurs through adult, rather than peer, behaviour; and different student groups experience discrimination in different ways.
4. This report is the first time that quantitative statistics have been published relating to discrimination against many of these identity groups – including religious students, migrant students, disabled students and students with health conditions, as well as students of different weights.
5. This evidence is informing the Ministry's joint work with the Ministry of Justice to free children and young people from racism and discrimination, including a proposed Education-wide work programme to address these issues (Education Report METIS number 1192827 refers).
6. The evidence is also informing action on anti-bullying strategies (METIS number 1191488 refers).

## Communications Approach

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7. Communications messages together with Questions and Answers are attached in Annex 2. We will work with your office on the communications.

## Proactive Release

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8. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released following the release of the *He Whakaaro/Education Insights* paper. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

## Annexes

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- Annex 1: *He Whakaaro: What do we know about discrimination in schools?*
- Annex 2: Communications – Top line messages and Questions & Answers

Released Under the Official Information Act 1982