



## Briefing Note: Draft Cabinet Paper: Continuing the Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura Initiative

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	4 December 2020	Priority:	High
Security Level:	Budget Sensitive	METIS No:	1246304
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

### Purpose of paper

- This paper provides a draft Cabinet paper (Annex 1) for your feedback on options for continuing the Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura Initiative.
- We require your feedback by Monday 7 December so we can finalise the Cabinet paper for agency and Ministerial consultation ahead of lodging on Friday 11 December for consideration by Cabinet Business Committee on Wednesday 16 December.

### Proactive release

**Agree** that this Briefing will not be proactively released at this time because it contains budget sensitive information.

**Agree / Disagree**



Dr Andrea Schöllmann  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Education System Policy**  
04/12/2020

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

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Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

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## Background

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1. The Minister of Education was invited to report back to Cabinet on stage one of the Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura initiative and next steps by December 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0094]. The Associate Minister of Education has been delegated responsibility for this initiative. Funding for this initiative currently ends in June 2021.
2. In addition to the report back, we recommend you seek decisions from Cabinet on the continuation of the initiative and approach to funding. We recommend seeking Cabinet agreement to:
  - a. continue the Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura initiative;
  - b. transfer 9(2)(j) of the 2020/21 operating underspend from the Ka Ora Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunches programme fund the initiative until June 2024; and
  - c. a public announcement by February 2021 of the continuation of the initiative to allow the Ministry of Education to undertake an open tender process to secure a supplier and ensure continuity of supply.
3. We have attached a draft Cabinet paper at Annex 1 for your feedback. The paper fulfils the requirement to report back to Cabinet. The paper also outlines the option to use an operational underspend from the Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunches programme to fund the initiative until June 2024.
4. A Cabinet decision, rather than a Joint Ministers decision, is needed as this funding shift requires both a transfer of the funds and that those funds are transferred over multiple financial years.
5. We need the paper to be considered at the last Cabinet Business Committee meeting of the year, Wednesday 16 December, to enable a procurement process to begin early 2021 and the nationwide rollout of period products in schools and kura that opt in from Term 2 (May) 2021.
6. We therefore require your feedback on the draft Cabinet paper by Monday 7 December to enable agency and Ministerial consultation to be undertaken prior to lodging on Friday 11 December.
7. The reason for this urgency is that, under the current funding situation, we are only able to offer a short-term contract to supplier(s) with no guarantee of an extension (as current funding ends in June 2021). 9(2)(j). These implications are outlined further in the draft Cabinet paper.

## Annexes

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- Annex 1: Draft Cabinet Paper – *Continuing the Access to Free Period Products in Schools and Kura Initiative*