



Briefing Note: 2019 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	03 February 2020	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	Jira No:	1218136
Drafter:	Joe Swift	DDI:	s 9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Deborah Kent	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes - Amanda Broatch and David Venables	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

- **Note** that you are hosting the 2019 Australian Scholarships Groups (ASG) National Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Noted

- **Note** the background information this paper provides and the talking points for your address at the Awards ceremony.

Noted

- **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Summary

- You have accepted an invitation from Allen Blewitt, Chairman of the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) to give a keynote speech at the 2019 award ceremony to be held from 12:00pm – 2:30pm on Friday 21st February 2020 in the Grand Hall at Parliament. You are the parliamentary host for this event and will be required to attend 12:30pm – 2:00pm.
- The event has previously been attended by prominent figures from the education and social sectors, together with media and public relations professionals.

- This will be the third time you have addressed this event. You delivered a keynote speech at both the 2017 and 2018 events. The speech is expected to last 10-15 minutes.
- This years' Awards Ceremony also celebrates the Foundation's 25th anniversary.



Deborah Kent
Associate Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

03/02/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

14/2/20

Background

1. The NEiTA Foundation was formed in 1994 as an education initiative of the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) - a large member owned friendly society helping families plan for the future costs of their children's education. ASG offers a range of education saving funds to help parents, families and whānau to offset the costs of education in private, state and state-integrated schools. The education funds may also pay scholarship benefits to students in tertiary study.
2. The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards are offered annually and provides public recognition of inspirational early childhood educators, teachers, principals and centre directors. Nominations for the awards are made by parents, students, and school communities.
3. Since inception, more than 35,000 teachers have been nominated by the community across both New Zealand and Australia. More than 1,050 teachers have received \$1,000,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.

Selection of recipients for the award

4. Each year the ASG NEiTA Foundation requests nominations for the award.
5. ASG have announced the names of 15 New Zealand regional teachers and leaders who progressed to the final stage of the Awards. From the 15 regional nominations, six national award recipients have been selected and will be presented with an award at the upcoming ceremony.
6. Some short profiles of the 2019 ASG NEiTA recipients have been attached to this document as Annex 1.
7. The NEiTA judging panel will attend the ceremony and is made up of:

NEiTA Judge	Ms	Lorraine	Kerr, MNZM	President	New Zealand School Trustees Association
NEiTA Judge	Mr	Patrick	Walsh	Principal	John Paul College

ASG

8. ASG was established in Australia in 1974 which began to operate in New Zealand in 1990. ASG holds an Australian Financial Services License and has a registered office in Oakleigh, Victoria.
9. Across both Australia and New Zealand, ASG has supported more than 530,000 children and provided more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments since the company was established. The New Zealand operation has enrolled more than 72,000 children since operations began.

Key Risks

10. There is a small risk that the Ministry and Government may come under scrutiny for not making this type of recognition and ceremony available for the New Zealand schooling sector. However, positive messaging around similar schemes that are in place (such as the Prime Ministers' Excellence in Education Awards, and the Advanced Classroom Expertise Teacher allowance) mitigates that risk.

Key Benefits

11. In terms of benefits, the ASG NEiTA ceremony presents an opportunity to acknowledge six exceptional teachers and leaders, and to also recognise the important role that teachers play in shaping future generations.
12. Association with ASG also provides other benefits to New Zealand schools. While the majority of ASG education and community initiatives for children, parents, teachers and educators operate in Australia, last year they partnered with the Life Education Trust to help roll out a cyberbullying program to New Zealand schools.

Other Relevant Information

13. ASG have provided an event information sheet and a run sheet detailing the timings for the event, which are both attached Annex 2 and Annex 3.
14. They have also provided a draft media statement to be released after the event, attached as Annex 4.

Speech Notes

15. Speech notes are attached as Annex 5.

Proactive Release

16. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released after the awards ceremony as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. 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: | Profiles of 2019 ASG NEiTA recipients – New Zealand |
| Annex 2: | Event information sheet |
| Annex 3: | Run sheet |
| Annex 4: | Draft media statement |
| Annex 5: | Speech notes |

Annex 1: Profiles of 2019 ASG NEiTA recipients – New Zealand



Early Childhood

- **Aimee MacAskill, Auckland University, NZ (North Island)**

Seeing tamariki grow and develop from young infants to confident and competent tamariki excited to head off on their school journey is what fuels my commitment, says Aimee.

Aimee recently accepted the position of General Manager of the ECE Centres at the University of Auckland. When asked what a good teacher is, Aimee's response was "A good or great teacher is someone that is truly dedicated to the growth and development of children in all areas. Not just the daily care routines, but someone that actually takes the time to get to know the children, to understand who they are as people, where they come from and where they are going."

Primary

- **Lee Tibble, Royal Oak Intermediate, Royal Oak, NZ (North Island)**

Lee takes pride in providing a fun and safe learning environment. Some of his students come from backgrounds where people have given up on them; which makes Lee even more determined to show them that they are worth it and that every individual deserves the right to have someone who is willing to NOT give up on them. Inspiring them to ask the 'why' to problems. The availability of free information has completely changed the landscape of what a teacher should look like. Lee believes that the important question to ask his students is "what would YOU like to learn about?". Lee has had great outcomes with his students as they are engaged and passionate about what they are learning.

- **Renu Sikka, Henderson Primary School, Henderson, NZ (North Island)**

Renu believes that for many students, a passion for education is often ignited by an inspiring teacher. Keeping the Maori principle of 'Ako' in mind, Renu has found that students teach her too. Renu has helped students achieve their goals by helping them take responsibility for their own learning and developing individualized pathways to suit their needs. Renu says "Schools are an integral part of our communities. Students encounter many influential people through their life that affect their learning abilities but parents are statistically proven to have the most impact on learning by assisting their children with their schoolwork."

- **Catherine Broman, David Henry School, Tokoroa, NZ (North Island)**

Students are Catherine's inspiration. She is constantly thinking of ways to help them make progress. Catherine is always thinking of new ways to engage them in the classroom so that she can deal with their individual needs. Catherine wants her students to know that their contribution is valued and they feel good about themselves. Catherine uses an UK online writing tool called "Night Zookeeper." This programme motivates pupils to write and inspires a love of writing. Huge progress has been made and pupils who once disliked writing, now love it.

Secondary

- **Carl MacIntyre, Cornerstone Christian School, Palmerston, NZ (South Island)**

Carl has a heart for those who struggle to succeed in a normal classroom environment. Learning needs or social difficulties at home or school make education harder for some students. Carl has designed a dyslexic/Irlen screening system for every student who enters the high school where he teaches, so that he can support the 33% of students whose dyslexic symptoms interfere with their learning. Carl has also managed a Learning Support program unremunerated for the last five years, fueled instead by the satisfaction of making a difference to the vulnerable. Carl helped to create Cornerstone's pastoral care model, which is called Life Lab and based on groups of students having a teacher - termed a coach - who is responsible for their emotional, spiritual, social, physical and learning needs.

- **Christopher Waugh, Mount Aspiring College, Wanaka, NZ (South Island)**

Christopher has been responsible for the introduction of a totally unique 'student choice' programme in the schools he has worked in. This involves teachers developing a diverse array of learning programmes. At the beginning of the year, teachers present themselves, their programmes and their style to the students, who are then given the power to select their course, and teacher, for the year. Three innovations that most embrace Christopher's philosophy are: "You Choose" student course selection scheme, "Open Classroom", the use of edutronic.net blogging for all students and classes, and the development of "Unlock Achievement" micro-credentials (in the form of digital badges) to support assessment of student achievement both in and outside the classroom. Christopher believes "good teachers work in collaboration with their fellow teachers, and, even more importantly, with the students they teach and their families."

Annex 2: Event information sheet

Event details

Name of host organisation	NEiTA Foundation
Type of event the Minister is being invited to (e.g. conference, launch, cocktail function) and title of event	National Excellence in Teaching Awards Ceremony
Day, date and timeframe of Minister's attendance	21 February 2020
Venue (exact room, building and full physical address).	Grand Hall
Purpose of event (objectives, planned outcomes)	Award ceremony to reward teachers for their achievements in the last year
If the Minister is being asked to make a presentation to someone (e.g. an award), please provide details of what the presentation is, what the Minister is required to do, who the presentation is to	No presentation, just a speech to the audience
If a conference, please provide a programme for the full conference (or an indicative outline, with a full programme provided at a later stage), particularly indicating what is scheduled to take place <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> the Minister's speech	Please see indicative event run sheet / outline attached
If a launch/function, please provide a run-sheet including timings for the event	Please see indicative event run sheet / outline attached
Who will be introducing/thanking the Minister?	Allen Blewitt – Chairman of the NEiTA Foundation
Dress code	Corporate

Facilities

How will the venue be set up? (e.g. lecture style with podium; or informal, people standing)	Cabaret style table set up for a lunch
Please indicate the facilities available to assist the Minister deliver the speech., e.g., Datashow, Overhead Projector, etc	Stage, lectern and projector

Multi-cultural dimension

Please indicate whether it would be appropriate for the Minister to include a Māori, Pacific or other ethnic greeting at the start of his speech	NA but Minister is more than welcome to if he wishes so
Please advise if the Minister is to be involved in a more formal/specific Māori, Pacific or other ethnic dimension to your event (e.g. pōwhiri); the nature and timing of this; will he be required to respond, in English or Māori; and if Māori, can your organisation provide a speaker/singer on the Ministers' behalf?	NA
Please indicate who the Minister should acknowledge (either as part of his greeting at the start of his speech, or as part of a more formal dimension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Chairman of NEiTA Foundation, Allen Blewitt -The CEO of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Ross Higgins -The Chairman of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Craig Dunstan -Government Officials

Attendees

Please provide a guest list if possible, or indicate the makeup of the audience	Teachers, Government officials, Education and Teachers associations, past NEiTA award alumni, NEiTA judges, Futurity representatives
Are other Ministers and/or MPs being invited to attend? If so, who?	TBC
Please indicate any other important guests the Minister should be aware of	TBC
How many people in total are being invited or are expected to attend?	At least 60 are expected to attend. We are aiming for 80.
Is an admission fee being charged?	None

Speeches

Length of speech requested (Note the standard length of speech is 5-7 mins.)	10-15 mins
Is there to be a Question and Answer session following the speech? If so, how long will this session be?	NA
Who else has been invited to speak? In particular, are other Ministers or MPs being invited to speak?	-The Chairman of NEiTA Foundation, Allen Blewitt -The CEO of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Ross Higgins -The Chairman of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Craig Dunstan
Content of Minister's speech – please indicate what issues you consider will be of interest to the audience [Please be as detailed as possible. You may find it useful to view speeches the Minister has previously delivered. www.beehive.govt.nz will take you to the Government website where you can locate photos and a CV of the Minister]	- Importance of rewarding teachers and educators -

Media

Are media being invited; and if so, who?	Yes - TBC
Will there be a media release issued by the organiser or host of the event? If so, please supply a copy to the Minister's Office one week prior to the event, with information on when it will be released to the media and to who.	Yes – Media Release to be sent by a week prior
Will there be invitations sent out, or advertisements for the event? If so, please supply a copy to the Minister's Office at least one week prior to the event.	Yes

Contact details

For organisational issues around the Minister's attendance	David Michell
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For the speechwriter to make contact, if required, to discuss content and elicit further information	David Michell
Who will meet the Minister at the venue (mobile number, and land-line number for the venue if possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Chairman of NEiTA Foundation, Allen Blewitt -The CEO of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Ross Higgins -The Chairman of Futurity Investment Group (formerly known as Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited), Craig Dunstan
Often photographs are taken during the Minister's visit. If the organisation takes any photos, we would be grateful to receive copies. Often a staff member accompanying the Minister will take photos. In order for us to use/publish any photos taken or obtained from you, we need to obtain consent from the people in the photos. Please supply the Minister's office with an appropriate person to contact, following the visit, to arrange consent.	David Michell
Do you have any questions you need answered in relation to the Minister's attendance?	None

Annex 3: Run sheet



2019 ASG NZ National Excellence in Teaching Awards

Date: 21 February 2020
Time: 12.00 – 14.30
Venue: Grand Hall – Parliament

TIME	ACTION	ACTIVITY	REQUIRED
REGISTRATION			
12.00	Welcome guests	Arrival and registration of guests - canapés and welcome drink on arrival	DM/KR
12.30		Guests invited to take their seats	KR
CEREMONY			
12.35	<i>Function commences</i>	Introduction and welcome address by Patrick Walsh – Master of Ceremonies	PW
12.40		Welcome address by Allen Blewitt – Chairman, NEiTA Foundation	AB
12.50		Keynote Address by Hon Chris Hipkins	CH
13.05 – LUNCH SERVED			
13.30 – Presentation of Awards by Hon Chris Hipkins			
Early Childhood Category.			
	<i>Introduction of recipient + 1 min video x 1 recipient</i> <i>Photos required</i> DM/KR to hand trophies and certificates to CH	Patrick Walsh (MC) announces award category and introduces the recipient of the Early Childhood Category . 1. Aimee MacAskill <u>Photo opportunity: CH & recipient</u>	MC reads names of each recipient followed by video clip on each recipient Each recipient comes on stage as their video is played and receives a certificate and a trophy
Primary School Category			
	<i>Introduction of recipient + 1 min video x 3 recipients</i> <i>Photos required</i> DM/KR to hand trophies and certificates to CH	Patrick Walsh (MC) announces award category and introduces the recipients of the Primary School category 1. Lee Tibble 2. Renu Sikka 3. Catherine Broman <u>Photo opportunity: CH & recipient</u>	MC reads names of each recipient followed by video clip on each recipient Each recipient comes up on stage as their video is played and receives certificate and trophy
Secondary School Category			
	<i>Introduction of recipient +</i>	Patrick Walsh (MC) introduces the recipients of the Secondary School category	MC reads names of each recipient followed by video clip on each recipient

	<p><i>1 min video x 2 recipients</i></p> <p><i>Photos required</i></p> <p>DM/KR to hand trophies and certificates to CH</p>	<p>1. Carl MacIntyre 2. Christopher Waugh</p> <p><u>Photo opportunity:</u> CH & recipient</p>	<p><i>Each recipient comes up on stage as their video is played and receives certificate and trophy</i></p> <p><i>Christopher Waugh to also receive Special Award for Innovation in Teaching</i></p>
14.00 - DESSERT SERVED			
14.20		Closing address by Craig Dunstan – ASG Chairman	CD
14.30 - Event concludes			