



Education Report: Updated options for launch of the intensive Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities initiative and Ta'ovala videos

To:	Hon Jenny Salesa, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	21 February 2020	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1220782
Key Contact:	Dr Andrea Schöllmann, Deputy Secretary Education System Policy	DDI:	s 9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	N/A	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report seeks your approval of arrangements for the launch of the intensive Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC) initiative, scheduled for the 9 March, 9.30am to 10.30am.

You have the option of combining the DMIC launch with the launch of the Ta'ovala best evidence in action video series. The Ta'ovala video series focuses on the use of the DMIC approach in Year 8 mathematics classrooms at Koru School, where students use the weaving of the ta'ovala as a context for mathematical reasoning.

Summary

- This report proposes the launch of the intensive DMIC initiative and the Ta'ovala series of DMIC videos for Monday 9 March from 9.30am to 10.30am at Koru School in Mangere. Stanley (Stan) Whata is the principal of Koru School and Bronwyn Jones is the deputy principal.
- Alternatively, you may wish to launch the intensive DMIC initiative and the Ta'ovala series of DMIC videos, on Monday 9 March from 9.30am to 10.30am at Otahuhu School. Jason Swann is the principal of Otahuhu School, and the associate principals are Jasoda Patel and Meritiana McShane.
- Minister Aupito William Sio has previously expressed interest in being involved in the launch of the Ta'ovala videos.
- You recently requested further information about schools that had engaged successfully with DMIC prior to the beginning of the intensive DMIC initiative, as options for the DMIC launch [METIS 1220806 refers].
- This information is not collected by the Ministry of Education for schools that previously engaged with DMIC through centrally funded Professional Learning and Development

(PLD). Each school will, however, collect their own data and information about student learning and achievement in mathematics.

- Some DMIC schools have worked with Professor Roberta Hunter and Dr Jodie Hunter and the Best Evidence Synthesis programme in the Ministry of Education, collecting and interrogating their data over time and strengthening their teaching through continuous improvement as a part of DMIC.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **confirm** that the launch of the intensive Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC) initiative be held on Monday 9 March, from 9.30am to 10.30am.

Agree / Disagree

- b. **agree** that the launch be held at Koru School, Mangere (preferred option).

Agree / Disagree

Or

- c. alternatively, **agree** that the launch be held at Otahuhu School, Otahuhu.

Agree / Disagree

- d. **agree** that the launch of the Ta'ovala video series about implementation of DMIC be held at the same time as the launch of DMIC.

I'm informed due to timing this is not possible now.

Agree / Disagree

- e. **indicate** your preference for extending an invitation to Minister Aupito William Sio, to the launch of the Ta'ovala videos

Agree / Disagree

- f. **agree** that this briefing is **not** proactively released at this time, as final decisions have not yet been made.

Release / Not release



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

21/02/2020



Hon Jenny Salesa
Associate Minister of Education

25/2/20

Background

- 1 The Budget 2019 Education package 'Improving and Accelerating Outcomes for Pacific Learners' included \$7.193m over four years to deliver more intensive provision of the Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities initiative (DMIC) to 50 schools with large numbers of Pacific learners.
- 2 The initiative is led by Dr Jodie Hunter along with Professor Roberta Hunter and staff from Massey University, Auckland. A contract with Massey University is in place for the delivery of intensive DMIC to 25 schools in Auckland in 2020. A further 25 schools will be identified by the middle of 2020 to begin the programme in 2021.
- 3 Some funding continues to be available from the Ministry of Education through centrally funded Professional Learning and Development (PLD), to provide access to DMIC for some schools. This provision is less intensive than the provision being funded from Budget 2019.
- 4 You requested further information about schools that had engaged successfully with DMIC prior to the beginning of the intensive DMIC initiative as options for the DMIC launch [METIS 1220806 refers].
- 5 This information is not collected by the Ministry of Education for schools that previously engaged with DMIC through centrally funded PLD. Each school will, however, collect their own data and information about student learning and achievement in mathematics.
- 6 Some DMIC schools have worked with Professor Roberta Hunter and Dr Jodie Hunter and the Best Evidence Synthesis programme in the Ministry of Education, collecting and interrogating their data over time and strengthening their teaching through continuous improvement as a part of DMIC.
- 7 New Zealand Council for Education Research (NZCER) has recently been contracted by Massey University to undertake an intensive evaluation of a sample of 50 schools receiving centrally funded DMIC PLD. Schools in this evaluation are using standardised tests to gather data about mathematics achievement of students over time.
- 8 The intensive provision of DMIC is also the focus of research that will be undertaken by Dr Jodie Hunter as the focus of her Rutherford Discovery Fellowship. Her research is titled: "Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities: Using a strengths-based approach to provide equitable opportunities to learn mathematics for diverse learners."
- 9 The provision of intensive DMIC includes a strong focus on the engagement of families in the initiative, alongside sustained support for teachers as they learn to implement ambitious mathematics teaching and learning. This is the model that has been the focus of Professor Roberta Hunter's PhD and post-doctoral research and Dr Jodie Hunter's research, demonstrating over time the impact and effectiveness of intensive DMIC implementation.
- 10 Information about progress on the intensive DMIC initiative was recently provided as a part of the quarterly update on Budget 2019 [METIS 1206805 refers].

Proposal for the launch of the intensive DMIC initiative

- 11 Monday 9 March from 9.30am to 10.30am has been identified as your preferred timing option for the DMIC launch.
- 12 Koru School in Mangere has been identified as a possible venue for the launch. The school is participating in the intensive DMIC initiative, and previously participated in the centrally funded DMIC PLD since 2013. Koru School is recommended as a strong example of effective implementation of ambitious mathematics teaching and learning in the DMIC initiative. The school has taken on the deep challenges of the DMIC pedagogy, including mixed ability grouping.
- 13 Stanley (Stan) Whata is the principal of Koru School and Bronwyn Jones is the deputy principal.
- 14 Otahuhu School is an alternative option for a venue for the launch. Jason Swann is the principal of Otahuhu School. The school is currently participating in the intensive DMIC initiative, having started at the beginning of 2020. Note that you have previously launched Tapasā at Otahuhu School.

Proposal for the launch of the Ta'ovala¹ videos at the DMIC launch

- 15 The Ministry of Education's Best Evidence Synthesis programme has worked with Massey University to demonstrate the implementation and impact of DMIC in the schools they work with through the development of sets of video resources. The Ta'ovala series demonstrates the DMIC teaching approach using ta'ovala weaving as a context for ambitious mathematics teaching and learning in a Year 8 class.
- 16 There is an opportunity to combine the launch of the Ta'ovala series of videos with the launch of the intensive provision of DMIC. This video series was developed at Koru School and shows ambitious mathematics in the context of ta'ovala with Year 8 students. The mathematics problems involve grappling with ratios, decimals and fractions.

Next steps

- 17 When the date and venue are confirmed, we will work with the Auckland regional office of the Ministry of Education, your preferred school and Dr Jodie Hunter and Professor Roberta Hunter, alongside your office, to identify and invite attendees and confirm the detailed run sheet and talking points for the launch.
- 18 Minister Aupito William Sio has previously expressed interest in participating in the launch of the Ta'ovala video series so you could consider whether the launch is undertaken jointly by you and Minister Sio.

¹ A ta'ovala is a traditional Tongan woven garment and it is worn as a mark of respect at all formal occasions.