MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Briefing Note: Te Roopu Arahina Puawaitanga – early intervention initiative with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens

To:	Hon Tracey Martin, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	26 June 2019	**Priority:**	Medium
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	**Round Robin:**	No

Purpose of Report

This briefing provides you with information about Te Roopu Arahina Puawaitanga, our early intervention initiative with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens in Porirua.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / **Disagree**

Summary

- The Ministry's regional offices have begun to respond to the challenge of increased and sustained demand for specialist support by implementing local approaches to meet needs in their communities. These sustainable practice changes are part of the Learning Support Delivery Model.
- While the approaches vary by region, they tend to involve proactive response to need, a tiered approach to support, and capacity building of teachers and other adults around children needing support.
- This briefing provides you with information about our work with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens in Porirua. We will be providing you with a wider briefing on actions planned and underway in other regions by July 15 2019.

Susan Howan
Associate Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

26/6/19

Hon Tracey Martin
Associate Minister of Education

26/6/19

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Te Roopu Arahina Puawaitanga – early intervention initiative with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens in Porirua

1. One new approach being trialed by our regional offices is to have a liaison/key worker role and allocating early learning services (ELS) and schools to Ministry staff

2. In this approach, the ELS or school becomes the client rather than the child. This enables specialist staff to build a relationship with ELS staff through regularly scheduled visits (eg two-hour sessions each fortnight or month). They help develop fit for purpose approaches and interventions to respond to universal, targeted and individual needs in the centre in real time. Parents are welcome to speak with the specialist staff.

3. This approach has been implemented successfully in Otago/Southland and Taranaki, as well as in the Wellington region with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens in Porirua. Individual referrals are minimised, enabling children needing specialist support to receive it more quickly.

Origins of the initiative

4. Te Roopu Arahina Puawaitanga developed out of an analysis of our referrals which indicated 43% of active cases and 47% of requests for early intervention support in Porirua came from the 16 He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens.

5. The local Service Manager met with CEO of He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens to discuss a way of working that could better meet the needs of the whole centre environment, support teachers and families earlier and increase Learning Support presence in communities with easier access to appropriate levels of support.

How the initiative works

6. The Te Roopu Arahina Puawaitanga initiative involves all 16 He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens in the wider Porirua area and the Porirua based Learning Support Team.

7. Two Learning Support staff (combination of Early Intervention Teacher, Speech Language Therapist or Psychologist) visit each centre once a month for up to two hours.

8. These visits are in addition to our work with individual children receiving specialist support who require a more tailored support plan.

9. Our staff work alongside teachers with a coaching and inquiry based approach. This includes discussing teacher strategies to support children with additional needs. Strategies and plans are provided and followed up with written notes and feedback for centres to trial between monthly visits.

10. Whānau are invited by kindergarten staff to attend on the days that our staff are visiting. This can be to discuss concerns and receive ideas to use to support ongoing development alongside the teaching teams.

11. This work with He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens has not taken any service away from any children elsewhere.

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Outcomes

12. Over 50 families have met with our staff since the end of January 2019. They have all received support, ranging from advice and guidance to immediate allocation for a more tailored Early Intervention Service. A number of cases have also been referred to health sector partners (Audiology, Child Development Services) at an earlier stage.

13. The initiative has enabled families and teachers to receive strategies and ideas to support ongoing development within four weeks of a concern being raised.

14. This initiative has been profiled in the Education Gazette: https://gazette.education.govt.nz/articles/tailored-learning-support-scheme-promotes-whole-kindergarten-environment/

Next steps

15. We will be providing you with a wider briefing on July 15 2019 detailing approaches planned and currently underway in each region to reduce waiting lists and waiting times for specialist services.

Proactive Release

16. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released 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.

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