Briefing Note: Meeting with Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, 5 December 2019

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<th>Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education</th>
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<td>Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education</td>
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<td>Key Contacts:</td>
<td>Kiritina Johnstone</td>
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<td>Ben O’Meara</td>
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<td>Round Robin:</td>
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Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note the background information for your meeting with Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori (TRN) on Thursday 5 December 2019.

Summary

- On Thursday 5 December you are meeting with Dr Cathy Dewes (Chair) and Rāwiri Wright (Kaitakawaenga). Officials are available to attend the meeting. TRN would like to discuss the following kaupapa with you:
  - Recognition of Te Marautanga Te Aho Matua;
  - Removing s155 from within s156 of the Education Act 1989 (Act), and recognising and reinstating it as a stand alone section within the Act;
  - Outcomes of the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce Report and opportunities for TRN, including the legislative role of TRN as the kaitiaki of Te Aho Matua and Kura Kaupapa Māori;
  - Establishment process for an autonomous governance body to support Kaupapa Māori with a key focus on the impact on TRN and Ngā Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI). Items two, three and four are combined in the body of the briefing.
Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Ben O’ Meara
Group Manager
Education System Policy
03/12/2019

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
4/2/2019
Background

1. You met with Dr Cathy Dewes and Höhepa Campbell in June this year to accept their submission about the establishment of He Ara Motuhake – a parallel pathway model for Kura Kaupapa Māori, and relayed it to the Ministry of Education and the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce (Taskforce) for their consideration. At the conclusion of the hui you requested a follow-up meeting post the release of the Taskforce’s Report (Taskforce report) and the Government’s response, to discuss opportunities arising from it.

Recognition of Te Marautanga Te Aho Matua

2. Te Aho Matua has been gazetted under section 155A of the Education Act 1989.

3. Under that section and so by law, “Te Aho Matua is a statement that sets out an approach to teaching and learning that applies to schools designated under section 155” (Kura Kaupapa Māori).

4. In Budget 2011, the Government approved the allocation of funding to support TRN to develop a Te Aho Matua curriculum and supporting material [CAB Min (11) 15/14 (14) refers]. Te Marautanga Te Aho Matua was launched on 13 March 2015.

5. In curriculum terms Te Marautanga Te Aho Matua is a local curriculum, and as the only gazetted local curriculum, is the highest profile local curriculum we have in our education system. As Te kaitiaki o Te Aho Matua, TRN is responsible by law for the content.

6. The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa are the National Curriculum, providing the overarching framework for local curricula, with the Minister of Education responsible for approving the content.

7. It would be possible, as a part of the Tomorrow’s Schools Review response work on strengthening the Māori medium pathway, for further local curricula to be gazetted, as Te Aho Matua has been.

Removing s155 from within s156 of the Education Act 1989 (Act), and recognising and reinstating it as a stand-alone section within the Act

8. In 2016, the Government decided, as a part of the Education (Update) Amendment Bill, to place the Kura Kaupapa Māori schooling provisions under the wider designated character schooling provisions in section 156 of the Act. This reflects the status of Kura Kaupapa Māori as designated character schools in terms of the way that the Act classifies school types.

9. Under the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017, a new section 156AA was introduced into the Education Act 1989, which created a single process for establishing all designated character schools, including Kura Kaupapa Māori. The process is more streamlined and easier to follow and took effect from 19 May 2017.

10. The movement of the Te Aho Matua provisions has no effect or impact on the legal status of TRN as Te kaitiaki o Te Aho Matua – placing Kura Kaupapa Māori schooling provisions under section 156 of the Act was simply a lift and shift in the same way that content is being lifted and shifted in the creation of the Education and Training Bill. TRN may wish to make a submission on the placement of these provisions in the Education and Training Bill as a part of the Select committee process on the Bill.
Outcomes of the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce Report and opportunities for TRN, including the legislative role of TRN as the kaitiaki of Te Aho Matua and Kura Kaupapa Māori, and the establishment process for an autonomous governance body to support Kaupapa Māori with a key focus on the impact on TRN and NKAI

11. The Government is working to ensure that the education system better meets the aspirations and needs of ākonga Māori and their whānau, in partnership with Māori in the context of Ka Hikitia and Tau Mai Te Reo [Reform of Tomorrow’s Schools system: Paper 1 – proposed Government position refers].

12. The Taskforce Report Recommendation Four – Strengthening School Provision, states “that the schooling provision strategy needs to facilitate a parallel Kaupapa Māori pathway”. Action point 4a is to form an autonomous governance body to support Kaupapa Māori that includes the educational organisations currently recognised as Kaupapa Māori: TRN and NKAI, and that respects their differences.

13. Cabinet considered the Taskforce’s recommendations and, rather than creating a ‘parallel pathway’, agreed to “strengthen the Māori medium pathway” to ensure that our future education system is more responsive to meeting the needs of all Māori ākonga and their whānau.

14. The Cabinet paper establishes two immediate priorities for the Ministry relating to mātauranga Māori. These are:
   a. advice on options for greater engagement by Māori and iwi in kura and school governance; and
   b. a plan for taking work forward to strengthen the Māori medium pathway, including the process for engagement with Māori.

15. Both sets of advice are due to you and the Minister of Education in June 2020. The Ministry is in the process of scoping this work. We expect to be able to discuss this with TRN and NKAI in more detail in early 2020.

16. We expect that any work on governance to support Kaupapa Māori would be progressed after Ministers have had the opportunity to consider these first two sets of advice. This is consistent with the timing that Ministers agreed when considering the staging of the significant volume of work to be undertaken in response to the Tomorrow’s Schools Review.