



Education Report: Covid-19 Budget Initiatives, Tranche Three

To:	Hon Min Chris Hipkins		
Date:	23 April 2020	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1226534
Drafter:	Svenja Gellert	DDI:	s 9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Damian Edwards	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report sets out changes to three initiatives from Tranche Two as well as a third tranche of initiatives that could be submitted for consideration as part of the Government's response to COVID-19 by Cabinet on 11 May, and seeks your decision on which of these initiatives should be submitted. It also informs you about the possibility of further initiatives that may follow for submission on the 24th of April.

This Report will not be proactively released at this time because the information contained within it is Budget sensitive.

Summary

- Initiatives for Government's immediate COVID-19 response must be submitted by 24 April, for Cabinet consideration on 11 May using criteria that was updated on 20 April.
- Initiatives now also need to fit within wave 1 or wave 2 or be fiscally neutral to be considered near-term matter.
- Following advice provided, you have indicated which initiatives you would like to proceed.
- This report provides advice on a final third tranche of potential initiatives, for your decisions on which of these will be submitted for consideration on 11 May.
- This report advises you on some substantive changes made to three initiatives submitted previously (in tranche two) to refine and strengthen their approach to the COVID-19 response and seeks your approval to submit in their revised form.
- There is the possibility of further initiatives to follow for submission on 24 April.

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- a. **note** that the qualifying criteria for COVID-19 initiatives to be considered on 11 May must relate to Wave 1 or Wave 2 or be fiscally neutral.

Noted

- b. **note** that we have already provided you with advice on a number of potential initiatives for your consideration and have received feedback on which initiatives you wish to proceed.

Noted

- c. **note** that options for the Learning Support package items have been submitted to you in an education report [METIS 1226500 refers]

Noted

- d. **note** that there is the possibility of further initiatives to follow for submission on 24 April

Noted

- e. **decide** which of the following revised Tranche Two and new Tranche Three initiatives related to COVID-19 response should be submitted for Cabinet consideration on 11 May, or instead deferred for consideration at a later date:

Initiative	Submit for Cabinet Consideration on 11 May	
	Submit	Defer
Strengthening schools' ability to manage the impact of COVID-19 – tagged contingency and extension of donations scheme s 9(2)(f)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> ®	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Māori Learners and Whānau during the COVID-19 Pandemic ¹ s 9(2)(f)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> ®	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme teacher aide hours ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ®	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technology support for children with learning support needs ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ®	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Intervention: Te Kōhanga Reo ² s 9(2)(f)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> ®	<input type="checkbox"/>
® Ministry Recommendation		

¹ you previously chose to defer these initiatives but we are looking to be resubmit in revised form

² These initiatives have been submitted to you in an education report on the Learning Support package as mentioned in c)

- f. **agree** that, subject to your decision in recommendation e), the Ministry finalizes templates for those initiatives that you have decided will proceed and submits these to the Treasury by 5.00pm on 24 April

Agreed / Not Agreed

- g. **agree** that this Education Report is not proactively released at this time, because the information contained within it is Budget sensitive.

Release / Not release



Damian Edwards
**Associate Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy**

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Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

__/__/__

Proactively Released

Background

1. As a consequence of measures taken to control the spread of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), changes have been made to the 2020 Budget process. Budget initiatives related to COVID-19 must be submitted by 24 April to be considered by Cabinet on 11 May [Treasury Circular 2020/02 refers].
2. The Treasury has set out the criteria that will be applied to COVID-19-related initiatives submitted for the 11 May Cabinet meeting, and has also provided a template that must be used to submit these. In summary, the criteria are:
 - the funding sought must be needed as a direct consequence of COVID-19
 - the funding must be needed outside of the normal budget cycle to support the response and/or recovery from COVID-19, and
 - the cost cannot be met from within existing baselines.
3. In addition to the measures outlined in 2) ministerial guidance has been updated to reflect the following criteria [Treasury Circular 2020/03 refers].
 - Wave 1)** Fighting the virus and cushioning the blow (from now to 6 months)
 - Wave 2)** Positioning for recovery (to be implemented from around May 2020 onward); and
 - Wave 3)** Resetting and revitalising the economy (supporting significant and long-term change).
4. The Treasury has advised us that Cabinet is expected to prioritise initiatives that are timely, temporary and targeted in terms of their impact on addressing COVID-19-related needs.
5. We have already provided you with advice on COVID-19 initiatives that could be included in the 11 May package, including:
 - **3 April:** a report on our proposed approach to this package [METIS 1225062 refers]
 - **9 April:** a report on a Tranche One of potential initiatives that could be submitted for consideration on 11 May [METIS 1225533 refers]
 - **15 April:** a report on options for a Wellbeing Package to respond to COVID-19 [METIS 1225662 refers]
 - **16 April:** a report on a potential vocational education and training boost package for COVID-19 Budget
 - **16 April:** a report stating the response to the impact of COVID-19 in terms of its property projects and supplier s 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - **17 April:** a report on the tertiary education system COVID-19 response s 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - **17 April:** a report on further options to ensure income adequacy for students during the COVID-19 outbreak s 9(2)(f)(iv) and
 - **17 April:** a report on a Tranche Two of potential initiatives that could be submitted for consideration on 11 May [METIS 125877 refers]
 - **23 April:** a report on Learning Support initiatives [METIS 1226500 refers].

Amended Tranche Two: Proposed COVID-19 Initiatives

6. Following further conversations with Associate Ministers as well as your Office, some substantial changes have been made to one approved initiative from Tranche Two and two initiatives from the same tranche you previously chose to defer.

Title	Description	Changes made	Operating (5-Years)
Targeted support for Pacific learners and families'	This initiative provides funding to ensure Pacific learners and families are equipped to access education during the COVID-19 response. This initiative supports Pacific learners' access to education by: funding brokerage services between Pacific learners and families and education services, Pacific providers and government agencies; establishing a Pacific Education Innovation Fund to promote culturally sustaining practice in the COVID-19 context; enabling leaders in Tautai o le Moana, a principal leadership collaborative, to promote culture change in schools to support Pacific learners; providing governance and management support for Pacific early learning centres; and translating and distributing key materials in Pacific languages. Led by Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins.	<p>The initiative was previously made up of five components and has been revised by Minister Salesa to focus on three entirely new components and two former components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o providing brokerage services between Pacific learners and families and local education services to access education during the COVID-19 response o establishing a Pacific Education Innovation Fund to support innovative practices during the COVID-19 response o investing in Tautai o le Moana, a principals leadership collaborative, to support principals to respond to COVID-19 o supporting the governance and management of Pacific early learning centres o translating and distributing key messages into 10 Pacific languages 	\$80.237m
Supporting Māori Learners and Whānau during the COVID-19 Pandemic (previously Supporting Māori Learners and Whānau)	This initiative will provide funding to support Māori learners and whānau to access the full range of education and wellbeing services being delivered by local education services during the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Ministry of Education will partner with Iwi and Māori Organisations to provide engagement, facilitation and brokerage services between Māori learners and whānau and local education services. Led by the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis.	This bid has been scaled and now reflects the need to support Māori learners and whānau to (re-)engage with local education services so that they can access education and wellbeing services being delivered as part of Wave 1 and Wave 2 of the COVID-19 pandemic response.	\$68.000m

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Potential Tranche Three: Proposed COVID-19 Initiatives

7. This tranche has a focus on initiatives in the ECE, Schools Funding and Learning Support sector:

Title	Description	Cost (\$0.000m)	
		Operating (5-Years)	Capital (10-Years)
Strengthening schools' ability to manage the impact of COVID-19 – tagged contingency and extension of donations scheme	This initiative provides funding to strengthen the ability of New Zealand schools to manage the financial impact of COVID-19. It provides funding to extend the donations scheme to all state and state-integrated schools from the 2021 school year. It also establishes a tagged contingency for state, state-integrated and private schools that are experiencing financial hardship caused by the loss of non-government revenue due to COVID-19. This will support schools to remain financially viable, enable the continuation of teaching and learning, and minimise disruption for students and staff. Led by the Minister of Education.		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
Increasing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme teacher aide hours	This initiative will help fight the virus and cushion the blow by ensuring students with high and very high needs are given additional support with physical distancing and hygiene practices to minimise the risk to themselves and to others upon their return to school. This initiative will also support students to readjust to life in school and to reengage in education in the school setting. Students with high and very high needs are likely to need additional support to re-establish their routines which have been disrupted by the lockdown. Additional support during this transition will minimise stress for students, teachers and parents and enhance their wellbeing.	144.222	-
Technology support for children with learning support needs	This will cover a flexible fund to provide technology to support children with learning support needs to fully engage in learning, either at home or at school. This could be through either devices or assistive technology such as specialised software and hearing or vision equipment. Having such a fund in place would provide us with resilience to shape our support depending on the wider context.	1.487	-

Title	Description	Cost (\$0.000m)	
		Operating (5-Years)	Capital (10-Years)
Early Intervention: Te Kōhanga Reo	This initiative will deliver targeted professional learning and development to support kōhanga whānau (made up of parents, extended family, kaiako and other kōhanga staff) to effectively identify, assess and manage the learning support needs of their tamariki. Working with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, the purpose is to empower kōhanga whānau to own the learning support approach they know will work best to realise the educational aspirations of their tamariki. Whānau from Te Kōhanga Reo should have agency and feel safe and supported to access the Ministry's early intervention services to meet the education and oranga tonutanga/continued wellbeing needs of their tamariki.	2.839	-

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next Steps

- We understand there is a possibility that the following initiatives may require your approval for submission on 24 April:

Title	Description	Cost (\$0.000m)	
		Operating (5-Years)	Capital (10-Years)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

	education. Led by the Minister of Education.		
Establishing a Student Hardship Fund for 2020 ³	This intervention proposes to establish a COVID-19 student hardship fund for 2020 of \$20 million to be available immediately. This will help students who may fall through the cracks of the general COVID-19 financial supports to access money and allow them to remain connected with their education provider. Led by Minister of Education.	tbc	tbc

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

COVID-19 subsidy for employers of industry trainees and apprentices	This initiative provides funding to provide incentives to employers of apprentices and industry trainees for up to 1-2 years. It is costed using methods similar to a wage subsidy, but the policy work is not yet done in detail. Led by the Minister of Education.	tbc	tbc
COVID-19 Centres of Research Excellence Funding Transfer	This initiative is a fiscally neutral funding transfer to implement a six-month extension of current contracts with 10 Centres of Research Excellence due to the impact of COVID-19 to avoid	tbc	tbc

