**Briefing Note:** Talking points for meeting with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust about Budget 2020

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<th>Addressee:</th>
<th>Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education, Minister for Māori Crown Relations / Te Arawhitī</th>
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**Purpose**

This paper provides talking points to support your call to the co-chairs of Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, Daniel Procter and Dame Tariana Turia on 14 May 2020 to brief them about kōhanga reo funding announcements in Budget 2020.

**Proactive release**

Agree that this briefing will be proactively released as part of the overall Budget 2020 proactive release

Agree / Disagree

Damian Edwards  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Education System Policy

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Associate Minister of Education  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations / Te Arawhitī

13/05/2020  
14/05/2020
Talking points for the meeting with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust on Budget 2020 funding

- Tēnā kōrua Tariana and Daniel
- Thank you for making the time to talk with me today
- I want to give you a quick heads up about the Budget announcement relating to kōhanga reo I’ll be releasing later this afternoon.
- I know there’s been a lot of work put in by the Trust and the Crown teams over the last year or so to work through the sustainability requirements of kōhanga reo and the Trust. And to get the relationship on a good footing. So thanks for your work in that respect.
- I think the funding I’ll announce shortly should go a long way to making sure kōhanga reo continue to play a key role in Maori immersion provision and as a key platform for leading whānau development across Aotearoa.
- There’s a lot of pressure for funding from a lot of sources in this Budget but I’ve been clear to my colleagues that this is one initiative that needs to be prioritised.
- I’ll quickly outline the funding I’ve secured:
  - We’ve got $65.1 million over four years to increase the funding rates, so money paid through the ECE subsidies. That will start from 1 July 2020 and will be a $1.61 increase across the rates kōhanga reo get now.
  - You’ll see another $93.4 million over four years to confirm existing levels of funding the Crown provided last year to meet pressing funding needs. We only had one year guaranteed last year. This is mainly aimed at improved pay for kaiako and other kaimahi.
  - There’s $21.1 million over four years for the Trust to support ongoing work to assess, remedy and rehabilitate properties – I think this comes off the back of some good work with Opus to start getting a good handle on where the building portfolio is at.
  - There’s $13.8 million earmarked for the Trust, so about $3.4 million extra each year. That should be quite a noticeable increase on the $2.6 million the Trust has been getting for some time from the Ministry.
  - That Trust funding will be to support the kōhanga reo network and enhance capability and capacity of those working in that network.
  - Finally, there’s a further $2.8 million allocated to provide support for kōhanga whānau to support their tamariki with learning support needs.
- The uses for the property and additional Trust funding will need to be worked into funding agreements with the Ministry but I think you’ve already got quite a laundry list of ideas for how this can be applied.
- I’m also relying on kōhanga reo to play its part in helping cushion the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 on whānau. So not just increased spending but being there when whānau might be going through a rough time with the job market and the anxieties that go with that.
• Overall, I'd hope that this funding will be a giant leap as far as sustaining the movement goes.

• I believe it’s most significant injection of new funding for kōhanga reo since 1990 when the Ministry took over the funding and, for me, represents real action on getting the Crown better meeting its Treaty obligations of actively protecting te reo Māori.

• I know money isn’t all that’s needed and there’s more discussion to come on Claim matters, but I’d like to think whānau will be really pleased with the announcement.

• I look forward to seeing it being used to get the movement strong and for mokopuna to learn, and learn well.