



## Briefing Note: Meeting with New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education

<b>To:</b>	Hon Minister Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	02 March 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1250840
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to

- **Note** information on the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education (NZCGE) in preparation for your meeting with the CEO Deb Walker.
- **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree

### Summary

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**9(2)(f)(iv)**

*Release*

Pauline Cleaver  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Early Learning and Student Achievement

02/03/2021



Hon Minister Jan Tinetti  
Assoc Minister of Education

11/3/2021

Proactively Released

## Background

1. New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education (NZCGE) is a registered charity. It owns the MindPlus curriculum and manages MindPlus schooling and its online options for gifted learners. It also provides Small Poppies for early-years learners and provides a consultancy and resources to support whānau and teachers.
2. MindPlus is a programme for gifted 6- to 13-year-olds, operating in 12 MindPlus units across NZ and online. It has two more locations opening in 2021.

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4. The focus for current Ministry funding of MindPlus is to increase engagement and further develop the MindPlus curriculum, particularly online.
5. NZCGE, in particular Deb Walker, has been involved in designing the Massey University Post Graduate Diploma of Specialist Teaching: Gifted Endorsement. This course begins this year.
6. Gifted Education is priority five in the Learning Support Action Plan. This commits to establishing a package of supports for gifted children and young people, including:
  - Expanding online learning modules.
  - Partially funding access to MindPlus one-day programmes.
  - Providing and promoting out-of-school experiences and extension events.
  - Establishing study awards for gifted learners and teachers of gifted learners.
  - Extending current supports into early childhood education.
7. The Ministry has a total budget of \$2.3 million for supports targeted at gifted learners as part of the Learning Support Action Plan.

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11. There is currently a lot of free online group and individual provision for learners due to COVID-19, which may have impacted the uptake of MindPlus's online learning.
12. MindPlus is provided in schools that have space and the motivation to host it. The availability of school space has been an ongoing issue and commercial properties are not affordable. This is highlighted as a major concern in the most recent monitoring report. In 2019 the Ministry provided a property contact for NZCGE so that they had a single point of contact and Ministry support for finding venues. This alleviated pressure in the short term, but venues are an ongoing problem because of the pressure on school space and school's obligation to first provide for their whole roll of learners.

### **Other successes and challenges**

13. NZCGE is opening two new MindPlus schools in Canterbury and Palmerston North in 2021. While the overall role dropped in 2020 due to COVID-19 the percentage of Māori and Pacific learners has risen by 2%. The one-day school in Whangarei has closed due to low numbers.
14. During COVID-19 levels 3 and 4 NZCGE was able to adapt and go to online provision immediately for groups and individuals.

### **NZCGE supporting gifted learners**

15. NZCGE are continuing to be a trusted source of information for the Ministry about gifted education and is involved in the work on identification of gifted learners and training for teachers. The Ministry is developing new information for schools, teachers whānau and learners on what being gifted means, why it matters, how to identify it and what to do. This work is in the formative stage for delivery by 30 June 2022.
16. NZCGE continues to provide members for the Gifted Expert Group that advises the Ministry on provision for gifted learners.
17. Stakeholder engagement for the refresh of *The New Zealand Curriculum* and wider curriculum work programme will include opportunities for representatives of the gifted community to contribute.

### **Next steps**

18. You will be meeting with Deb Walker, CEO of NZCGE, on Thursday 4 March 2021.