



## Briefing Note: Update on Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum changes

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	22 June 2020	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1226694
<b>Drafter:</b>	Hannah Boast		
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Pauline Cleaver	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<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** the progress we have made on updating and implementing The National Curriculum with revised content that makes explicit the expectation that Aotearoa New Zealand's histories will be taught in all schools and kura from 2022.
- **Note** that, in light of the Government's recent priority focus on dealing with the Covid-19 crisis, the aspects of our work involving stakeholder testing were rescheduled and this has delayed the finalisation of draft curriculum content.
- **Note** that we are intending to keep as closely as possible to the development timeline agreed to in January 2020 [METIS 1213102 refers], but these delays mean that your planned update to Cabinet in June 2020 will need to be deferred.
- **Agree** to proactively release this report with any appropriate redactions.

**Agree** Disagree

- **Agree** that your office will forward this report to the Associate Ministers of Education: Hon Kelvin Davis, Hon Jenny Salesa and Hon Tracey Martin.

**Agree** Disagree

### Summary

- In January 2020, we provided you with an update on our phased approach to designing and implementing the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum updates[METIS 1213102 refers]. Based on this, you agreed to provide an update to Cabinet in June

2020, when we expected to have draft national curriculum content ready for wider engagement. Following this testing and critique, the new curriculum content is intended to be finalised and issued in the New Zealand Gazette.

- In mid-March 2020, in light of the increasing risk associated with the Covid-19 virus in New Zealand, attention needed to be diverted to respond to the pandemic. Rules around face to face interaction were established as part of the nation's Alert Level response. Although our writing groups have been able to continue drafting curriculum content, we have not had the ability to test their work in a face to face, consultative setting that the stakeholder groups were established for.
- As a result, the earliest we could support you to update Cabinet on the draft curriculum content is late July 2020. It also means that we need to alter the way we manage the public engagement period in order to meet the original timeframes for gazetting final curriculum content. We are now planning for the public engagement period to run from October 2020 to March 2021 (with targeted engagement starting in August 2020).
- If you still wish to provide an update to Cabinet with the draft content ahead of public engagement, this will need to occur on 29 July 2020 to avoid further rescheduling of the engagement phase and/or implementation delays.
- We will provide you with draft curriculum content when it is ready. This will be accompanied by more detail on our communications and engagement plan for wider engagement over August 2020 to March 2021.



Ellen MacGregor-Reid  
Deputy Secretary  
**Early Learning and Student Achievement**

22/06/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

11/ 7/ 2020

I'm comfortable with the targeted engagement with the sector beginning before the report-back to Cabinet, which should be delayed until after the Election. Before wider public consultation starts, Cabinet should be consulted. CH

## Background

---

1. On 12 September 2019 you made a joint announcement with the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, that The National Curriculum will be updated to make explicit the expectation that Aotearoa New Zealand's histories is taught to all students in New Zealand schools and kura from 2022 [CAB-MIN-19-0455 refers].
2. Following your direction, we have been committed to a design and development approach which reflects the views and aspirations of Māori, Pacific and ethnic communities, the education sector, students, parents and whānau, and historians. National stakeholder groups have been established to ensure these voices guide, inform and contribute to the development of the curriculum content. Strategies to engage at a local level have also been discussed with Ministry regional teams.
3. Up until the implementation of Alert Level Three, our development timeframe was aligned to the four phase development process which you have agreed to [METIS 1213103 refers].
  - a. Phase One: focused on the establishment of stakeholder groups; stakeholder engagement on the key themes and a stocktake of existing supports.
  - b. Phase Two: focused on the co-design and development of curriculum content with the established stakeholder groups. The Ministry expected to have draft national curriculum content ready for Cabinet consideration by June 2020.
  - c. Phase Three: consisting of wider, public engagement from July 2020. Following feedback, the finalised national curriculum updates would be ready to be considered by Cabinet and gazetted in 2021.
  - d. Phase four: introducing and implementing the new curriculum. We will design an implementation package to support schools and kura to teach the new content from 2022 [CAB-MIN-19-0455 refers].
4. We have completed phase one of the project and moved into phase two. The two writing teams have been working together to draft the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content for the *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* and *The New Zealand Curriculum* and have made good progress.
5. Since March 2020 however, the Ministry of Education has paused meetings with our stakeholder groups, and with iwi, in light of the priority given to responding to the Covid-19 crisis and ensuring the health and safety of our staff and stakeholder group members. This has resulted in a delay to the completion of phase two.
6. We are not proposing a radical departure from the current four phase approach, however the timeframe for the completion of phase two needs to be extended, impacting on when phase three can begin.

## Progress to date

---

### Curriculum content

7. A draft framework for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content is now complete and ready for stakeholder testing. The next phase of work will focus on defining what learning looks like as students progress through their schooling. We have begun testing the draft framework with critical friends and our internal and external advisory and stakeholder groups (originally scheduled for May) and will do the same with the second phase of draft content over June 2020.

8. Due to testing delays and dependencies, the draft curriculum content will not be ready for you to share with your Cabinet colleagues in June 2020 as originally intended. We have committed to working with a number of stakeholders as we develop the curriculum content and this has not been possible.
9. We are extending phase two to allow for an extra month of collaborative work with our stakeholder groups as we finalise the draft curriculum content. This means that the earliest we could support you to update Cabinet with draft curriculum content is now late July 2020.

### **Curriculum support**

10. The curriculum support work stream has been considering the current teaching environment and what strengthening is required to the current supports available to kura and schools for teaching Aotearoa New Zealand's histories. We have identified suitable platforms to host links to supporting resources for the national curriculum (Kauwhata Reo and Social Sciences Online (SSOL) – note SSOL is an interim solution until a replacement for TKI can go live, which is dependent on funding being secured) and work is underway to provide guidance about how they can be used.

### **National stakeholder groups**

11. We have held one meeting with the Ohu Matua and received overall endorsement from the group on the approach to development. We have also held productive meetings with the Interagency Group and Independent Expert Advisory Group, both of whom have provided overall endorsement for the direction of the project. We were due to meet with the Whakaruruhau, but this was deferred when the Alert Levels were raised.
12. We intend to reset our engagement with these groups during June and July.

### **Iwi and hapū engagement**

13. History programmes that recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi rights and iwi and Māori histories will help to develop our collective understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, and will have direct positive effects for tamariki Māori who will see their histories acknowledged and valued.
14. Working collaboratively with iwi and Māori to determine and agree the criteria that will underpin the content in *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* and *The New Zealand Curriculum* will ensure cultural authenticity and accuracy of iwi and Māori histories is achieved.
15. The Ministry has used its existing channels to engage with iwi and Māori organisations at national, regional and local levels. We have relationships with a number of iwi, which are managed at Ministry regional office level. We have also had initial discussions with iwi to inform the Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories work, including the overarching themes and identifying further opportunities to work together.
16. We also intend on connecting with other work that has already commenced at local and regional levels. This will include the work iwi are progressing with local government when establishing national and regional sites of significance, iwi and community involvement in Tuia 250 commemorations, Te Pūtake o Te Riri and commemorations of the New Zealand Wars, and the development of te reo Māori resources about local and iwi histories through Te Aho Ngārahu. We will continue to use these networks to support this kaupapa as well.

### **Phase three: wider, public engagement**

17. The extension to phase two means that we need to alter the way we manage the public engagement period in order to meet the original timeframes for gazetting final curriculum content. We are now intending for the public engagement period to run from October 2020 to March 2021 (with targeted engagement starting in August 2020).
18. If you still wish to provide an update to Cabinet with the draft content ahead of public engagement, this will need to occur on 29 July 2020 to avoid further rescheduling of the engagement phase and/or implementation delays. The purpose of a Cabinet update would be to provide your Cabinet colleagues with an opportunity to discuss the draft curriculum content, ahead of the Ministry commencing wider engagement with targeted stakeholders, and subsequently the public, on the draft content.
19. This change will still enable public engagement for six months from October 2020 to March 2021 (with targeted engagement starting as soon as possible in August 2020), and ensure we keep to our original deadlines for gazetting and implementation.

#### Phase four: introducing and implementing

20. In developing this advice, we considered an extended development period which would result in further deferral of public engagement. However delaying the initiation of phase three further, or undertaking engagement over shorter timeframes, would have implications for the engagement element of the curriculum support and implementation work streams. Our work with iwi, Māori and local communities to develop local curriculum supports is dependent on having draft curriculum content ready and approved by Cabinet for wider public engagement.
21. Given the delays already experienced by the project, the Ministry has already begun utilising our connections, including stakeholder groups, sector leaders and networks, critical friends and early adopters, to safely share and test the curriculum content in confidence before it is published more widely. Although this was always a part of the development strategy, this activity will be significantly strengthened as phase two continues.
22. We intend to socialise a range of resources to support implementation while also publicly engaging on the draft curriculum content. These supports, including resource guides, provider workshops and other professional supports, would demonstrate, generally, how Aotearoa New Zealand's histories can be taught, even before it is gazetted.
23. Note that implementation supports for the curriculum changes are dependent on funding being secured through the Covid-19 Wave 3 Budget or re-prioritisation of baseline funding and resources.

#### Next steps

24. We will provide you with draft curriculum content when it is ready and support you to update Cabinet on 29 July 2020, and provide you with more detail on our communications and engagement plan for wider engagement over August 2020 to March 2021.
25. We will re-engage with our stakeholder groups to begin testing the draft framework, followed by the learning progressions, for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content as soon as possible.
26. We will continue developing our 'go to' web page and will provide active media coverage at appropriate points in the development. We plan to release public communications on the structure and membership of the stakeholder groups and the timelines for the project. This will ensure a transparent and proactive approach to the change process is maintained.

## Proactive Release

---

27. 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.

Proactively Released