Briefing Note: Meeting with education entity Chairs on Thursday 12 March 2020

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Date: 4 March 2020
Security Level: In Confidence
Drafter: Kirstin Scott
Key Contact: Fiona O'Leary
Messaging seen by Communications team: No

Priority: Medium
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Purpose of Report

Your office has requested a briefing note ahead of your meeting with education entity Chairs on Thursday 12 March 2020, from 9.30 to 10.00am.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Summary

On Thursday 12 March 2020, you are meeting with the following Chairs of education entities:

a. Barbara Ala'alatoa – Te Aho o te Kura Pounamu
c. Jenn Bestwick – Tertiary Education Commission
d. Murray Strong – Chair, New Zealand Qualifications Authority
e. Neil Quigley – Deputy and Acting Chair, New Zealand Qualifications Authority
f. Nicola Ngarewa – Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand
g. Steve Maharey – Education New Zealand.

Emily Fabling
Deputy Secretary
Strategy, Planning and Governance

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

04/03/2020
10/03/20
Background

1. In early 2019 we set up a half-day meeting of Chairs of education entities at the Ministry of Education, to test a new way of engaging with them as a group. The Chairs found the meeting valuable and we followed it with a second meeting in August 2019.

2. The Chairs are meeting for the third time on Thursday 12 March, and ahead of their meeting they have 30 minutes with you in your office. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet them for the first time as a group, and set out your priorities for education.

3. The following Chairs will be attending:
   a. Barbara Alāalatoa – Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (Te Kura)
   c. Jenn Bestwick – Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)
   d. Murray Strong – Chair, New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)
   e. Neil Quigley – Deputy and Acting Chair, NZQA
   f. Nicola Ngarewa – Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (Teaching Council)
   g. Steve Maharey – Education New Zealand (ENZ).

4. Iona Holsted (Secretary for Education) and Emily Fabling (Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Planning and Governance) will also be present.

5. Information about each board, including short biographies of the Chairs and Deputy Chair attending the meeting, is attached as Annex 1.

6. The Chairs are still finalising the agenda for their half-day meeting and we will provide your office with a copy as soon as possible.

Suggested topics

7. As your meeting with the Chairs is only scheduled for 30 minutes we recommend you focus on a small number of issues that are likely to be top of mind for the Chairs. Possible topics discussed with your office are outlined below.

8. **Environmental context**
   a. Operating context – You may wish to acknowledge and encourage the increased collaboration that is happening as agencies across the education sector work together on implementing the significant changes coming out of the Education Work Programme, and measuring progress and impact.
iii. contributing to the Government’s long-term vision for the education system as set out in the *Shaping a Stronger Education System with New Zealanders* overview document\(^1\)

iv. taking a collaborative, joined-up approach to working across sectors and government

v. taking steps to minimise information security risks.


9. **Selected pieces from the Education Work Programme**

Areas of interest to the whole group of Chairs include:

a. Māori and Pacific education, and equity and inclusion

b. the NCEA review

c. the Reform of Vocational Education and creation of the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology

d. the Curriculum, Progress and Achievement work.

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10. 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.

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## Annex 1: Biographies of board Chairs

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<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Short biography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Te Kura</td>
<td>Barbara Ala‘alatoa</td>
<td><strong>Barbara Ala‘alatoa</strong> is the Principal of Sylvia Park Primary School in South Auckland. Barbara was the inaugural chair of the Education Council and a member of the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce. She has more than 30 years’ experience in teaching and working throughout the education sector. Barbara is an outstanding educational leader with a wealth of experience in governance, primary education and teacher training, and with an in-depth cultural knowledge and understanding of the diverse student body enrolled in Te Kura. Barbara was appointed as a member of the board in August 2019 and was appointed Chair in September 2019.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZCER</td>
<td>Fiona Pimm</td>
<td><strong>Fiona Pimm</strong> is an Executive Leader with extensive experience in governance roles in the health sector, government agencies, community NGOs, local iwi and runanga. She is currently on the boards of an iwi development organisation, several health, education and workforce training organisations, and the NZ Parole Board. Fiona has been on the board since 2014 and has been Chair since September 2017.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEC</td>
<td>Jenn Bestwick</td>
<td><strong>Jenn Bestwick</strong> has extensive governance experience including roles at Ara Institute of Canterbury (formerly CPIT), Southern Response Earthquake Services and Development West Coast. She is a member of the NZQA board. Jenn’s leadership of CPIT during its merger with Aoraki Polytechnic established a high-level of credibility within the tertiary sector. Jenn was appointed Chair in February 2020. She has been on the TEC board as a member since December 2018.</td>
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Te Kura is a distance education provider that offers a wide range of personalised learning programmes and courses, from early childhood to NCEA Level 3, which are mostly delivered online. Students can enrol for a few credits in a specific course or for a full-time programme.

NZCER is an independent, statutory not-for-profit educational research and development organisation. It carries out and disseminates education research and provides information and advice.
the tertiary and careers system.

| NZQA | Murray Strong (Chair) | Murray Strong (Chair) is an independent Chairman and professional Director, and a Chartered member of the Institute of Directors of New Zealand. He currently holds governance and advisory roles in both the public and private sector. Murray has held a variety of Crown appointed senior roles over the last 15 years, including Crown Commissioner, and has worked in governance and senior management roles across the education, aviation, professional services, tourism and sport sectors. Murray is the interim Executive Director of the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, and is currently on leave from the NZQA board.

Murray has been on the board since 2010, and was appointed Chair in November 2018.

Neil Quigley (Deputy Chair and Acting Chair) is the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Waikato. Previously he was a Professor of Economics and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Victoria University of Wellington. He currently serves on the boards of a number of educational organisations and companies, including being Chair of the Board of Trustees of Wellington College. Neil is also the Chair of the Reserve Bank.

Neil has been on the board since 2010, and was appointed Deputy Chair in September 2019.

| Teaching Council | Nicola Ngarewa | Nicola Ngarewa is the Principal at Spotswood College in New Plymouth, and on the board of the TSB Trust. She has taught in all sectors of education from Early Childhood to Tertiary including in the NZ Prison system. She is passionate about disrupting the educational norm through transformative leadership and a focus on global citizenship. In 2013, Nicola received a Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award as a result of the transformative work at Tamatea High School. In 2016, she was the recipient of the Taranaki Daily News Person of the Year for transformative work at Patea Area School.

Nicola was appointed Chair from 1 July 2019. She has been on the Teaching Council (and previously Education Council) board as a member since January 2017.

The Teaching Council is the professional body for the New Zealand teaching profession. Its role is to promote good practice in teaching, new ideas, and inspirational leadership. The Teaching Council also provides leadership and works to strengthen the regulatory and disciplinary framework for teaching.
ENZ

ENZ is New Zealand's government agency for building international education. It promotes New Zealand as a study destination and supports the delivery of education services offshore. It also administers scholarships to support New Zealanders studying overseas particularly in Asia and Latin America.

Steve Maharey

Steve Maharey is an independent Director, commentator and consultant on a wide range of social and political issues. He was previously the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University. He is a former Member of Parliament and Senior Minister in the New Zealand Government (1999-2008). In 2009, as part of the Queen's New Year Honours List, Steve was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services as a Member of Parliament.

Steve was appointed as a member of the board in September 2018, and stepped into the Chair role on 1 March 2019.