



Review of how schools are funded for teacher aides draft sector communications about establishment of sector reference group

School leaders, other educators, unions and parents have identified a number of limitations with the way schools are currently funded for teacher aides. As part of the Teacher Aide Pay Equity Claim Settlement Agreement and the Accord signed between the Ministry of Education, NZEI Te Riu Roa and PPTA Te Wehengarua, Accord partners agreed to review how schools are funded for teacher aides and Ministers have approved starting this work.

The review aims to:

- develop a fairer, streamlined and more equitable system that works for ākonga Māori and better supports all ākonga (particularly those with additional needs), and has the confidence of principals, other educators, parents and whānau
- improve schools' resourcing so that this is more predictable and better reflects the level and extent of need within the school
- reduce precarity of employment and remove systemic barriers to help develop and support a well-trained, skilled and secure workforce of teacher aides able to plan and develop their careers.

The review is limited to how schools are funded for teacher aides; it won't consider the overall level of teacher aide funding in the education system or other funding policy.

Accord partners have approved establishing a sector reference group (SRG) to:

- help understand current issues in more depth
- develop, test and refine policy options and possible improvements
- develop and support wider sector engagement.

This work will support the development of recommendations for the Accord Governance Group and the Minister of Education. The SRG will ensure that there is meaningful engagement with the sector throughout the review.

The SRG will be chaired by the Honourable Tracey Martin.

We are using a skills-based nomination process to appoint people to the SRG and will provide an update on appointed members in a future School Bulletin.

This is significant and complex funding policy work; we envisage the group meeting every four to six weeks for the next 18 months. If changes are agreed, the earliest possible implementation date would be 2024.