



Briefing Note: Government Response to Final Report of Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	12 July 2019	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1198564
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of paper

This briefing provides information to support your discussion on the Government's response to the Tomorrow's Schools Review Independent Taskforce Report, on Monday 15 July, with education and central agency officials.

Proactive release

Agree that this briefing will **not** be proactively released at this time as it contains content under active consideration.

Agree / Disagree



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

12/07/2019



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

15/7/19

Background

1. On Monday 15 July you are meeting with education and central agency officials to discuss the final report of the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce (the Taskforce) and:
 - a. Agree on the process and timeline for the Taskforce's final report and the Government's initial response to be considered by Cabinet Committee;
 - b. Provide your feedback and direction, including your appetite for change, in what areas, and at what pace; and
 - c. Shape the next stages of advice and a timeline for detailed decisions.
2. **Annex 1** is an annotated agenda containing a table that provides initial analysis of the Taskforce's final recommendations and action points. Each of these has been classified according to the following table and includes a high level estimate as to whether resourcing implications will be high, medium or low.

Endorse	We agree with the Taskforce's proposal as it reaffirms existing practice and no further action is required.
Endorse through work underway	The intent of the Taskforce's proposal is already being progressed through an existing work programme.
Agree with the intent and consider further alongside alternative options	We agree with the problem definition and objectives that the Taskforce has identified and their proposal appears to have merit, but needs to be either more fleshed out and/or considered alongside a range of alternative options as part of either an existing work programme, or through the establishment of a new work programme. We would also like you to indicate if there any aspects of this proposal that you don't want to progress.
Agree to progress further	We recommend progressing this proposal further, subject to final design decisions, because there are clear benefits and/or it is relatively cost-effective to implement. This may include an interim step of requesting officials to report back to the Minister with further detail including, in some instances, other feasible approaches.
Missing and/or does not go far enough	We do not think that the proposal goes far enough, or is missing as it's currently proposed.
Do not progress further (as currently proposed)	We advise against progressing the proposal at this time on the basis that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts with principles of law (e.g. natural justice and human rights), and/or Te Tiriti o Waitangi • Is likely to create a significant function gap in the system • Is unlikely to be feasible (regardless of resources) • Is likely to have significant unintended consequences; and/or • Duplicates existing settings

3. In our assessment of the proposals, we have assumed a neutral position from a machinery of government perspective and, instead, considered the recommendation/action point from the perspective of what it is suggesting about

function, rather than the form. This means that we have kept the Taskforce's language (e.g. ESLNs), but when we are talking about these, we mean there is merit in locating some functions at an aggregated/clustered level (the specific mechanism of which the SSC will provide advice on).

4. This analysis is in the very early stages. There is further work to be done towards determining how far these recommendations go towards addressing our problem definition, including meeting our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.

Functional gaps in the Taskforce's report and the most important functions

5. We have previously done work on identifying gaps in the system, which indicates the following as areas that appear to be missing or not sufficiently strong enough to support the desired outcomes for ākongā:
 - a. Strengthening the voice of ākongā and whānau – while the Taskforce has some commentary in its report on the need for this voice, it does not propose a mechanism to do this. This has come through strongly as a gap in the system in both the Māori and Pacific education strategy sessions as a very important lever (that we don't have) for strengthening outcomes for ākongā;
 - b. Building collaborative networks – To create the opportunity for networking, feedback loops, and relationship building. There is a strong case for building on the networking, relationship building and trust formation that has been created through the formation of Kāhui Ako;
 - c. Building meaningful partnerships with communities and the business sector so that education is responsive to community values and aspirations, as well as to workforce needs.
6. We think that the most important points to progress are:
 - a. More support for teachers, pedagogy and curriculum at an aggregated level (subject to MOG advice about form), and getting this support closer to where it is needed;
 - b. More support for leadership, and the ability to have incentives in the system that reward leadership to work in our most complex (in terms of challenge) schools;
 - c. Build on the relationship capital, trust and networking clusters that already exist;
 - d. Strengthening the voice of ākongā and whānau.

Annex

Annex 1: Annotated agenda: Draft Government Response to the Tomorrow's Schools Report

