



## Briefing Note: Inclusion of the School Leavers' Toolkit in the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	22 August 2018	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1146653
<b>Drafter:</b>	Miriam Gibson	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Briefing Note

The purpose of this Briefing Note is for you to:

- **Note** that the School Leavers' Toolkit is included in the third Open Government National Action Plan. Minister Curran will begin consultation on the Cabinet Paper and NAP with you and your Cabinet colleagues this week, prior to lodging with the Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee on August 30 2018.
- **Note** that we will be providing you with an update in September on the progress of the Toolkit and how it is aligned to the careers transformation work.
- **Note** that this Briefing Note will be proactively released.

### Summary

- The State Services Commission (SSC) and an external expert advisory panel has identified the School Leavers' Toolkit (Toolkit) as a key contribution to the third Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP).
- Minister Curran will begin consultation on the Cabinet Paper and NAP this week, prior to lodging on August 30 2018.

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

17/8/18

## Background

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1. New Zealand is a member of the OGP: an international grouping of 70 member governments committed to increasing transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision-making.
2. Under its terms of membership, the New Zealand Government is obliged to adopt and implement a NAP. Officials from the SSC are working with government agencies, individuals, and groups in the community, to formulate a new NAP for adoption.
3. Early in the development of the third NAP, the SSC identified the Toolkit as a contributor to Theme 1 - Participation in democracy.
4. The ability of children and young people to contribute to the democratic process and wider community life was identified as a key sub-theme in the idea gathering phase of the NAP. The Toolkit includes a commitment to provide all young people with an understanding of civics and how our political system operates.

## Key Risks

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5. Failure of the New Zealand Government to meet obligations outlined in the NAP could lead to public censure from the OGP. Such a failure would risk public embarrassment in areas where New Zealand is typically strong by international standards.
6. The School Leavers' Toolkit commitment reflects what we plan to deliver within the existing funding and Ministerial direction. For this reason, there is no additional risk created by its inclusion in the NAP.

## Next Steps

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7. Minister Curran will begin consultation on the Cabinet Paper and NAP with her Cabinet colleagues, prior to lodging on August 30 2018.

## Other Relevant Information

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8. At this stage, the Ministry of Education's contribution to the plan is limited to the Toolkit. However, the NCEA review public engagement process and the Disability Support System Transformation (currently being carried out by Sector Enablement and Support) have been identified as possible case study topics for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's 'Policy Project' contribution to Theme 2 of the NAP. Theme 2 is 'government and New Zealanders work collaboratively to shape policy decisions and design of public services'.

## Talking Points

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9. The 'School Leavers' Toolkit' is a government commitment to provide all young people with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities they need to transition successfully into further education, training, or employment.
10. The Toolkit will include opportunities for young people to develop an understanding of civics and how our political system operates. This was a key theme identified during the development of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

11. The objectives the Toolkit are already embedded in the *New Zealand Curriculum* and *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*. We need to better support schools to access these resources, and to improve the integration of these experiences into schools' wider curricula.
12. To understand more about how civics education could be integrated into schools' local curricula, the Ministry of Education is currently working with a small number of schools and kura, employers, and tertiary education organisations to identify the systems, capabilities, and resources needed.
13. Resources and guidance for developing local 'Toolkits' will be available to schools by the end of the year.

#### Proactive Release

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14. It is intended that this Briefing Note 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.

Agree /  Disagree

*G/M*

2/9/18.