



Briefing Note: 2018 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	15 February 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1177394
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Purpose of Report

You are hosting the 2018 Australian Scholarships Groups (ASG) National Excellence in Teaching Awards. This paper provides background information and talking points for your address at the Awards ceremony.

Note the contents of this Briefing.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / **Disagree**

Summary

- You have accepted an invitation from Allen Blewitt, Chairman of the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA) to give a keynote speech at the 2018 award ceremony to be held from 4:00pm on Friday 22nd February 2019 in the Grand Hall at Parliament. You are the parliamentary host for this event.
- The event has previously been attended by prominent figures from the education and social sectors, together with media and public relations professionals.
- This will be the second time you have addressed this event. You gave the key note speech at the ceremony for the 2017 Awards in February 2018.



John McKeefry
Associate Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

15/02/2019



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

17/2/19

Background

1. The NEiTA Foundation was formed in 1994 as an education initiative of the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) - a large member owned friendly society helping families plan for the future costs of their children's education. ASG offers a range of education saving funds to help parents, family and whānau to offset the costs of education in private, state and state-integrated schools. The education funds may also pay scholarship benefits to students in tertiary study.
2. The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards are offered annually and provides public recognition of inspirational early childhood educators, teachers, principals and centre directors. Nominations for the awards are made by parents, students, and school communities.
3. To date, the awards have rewarded more than 3,500 New Zealand teachers and leaders with public recognition and a professional learning and development grant of \$5,000 each.

Selection of recipients for the award

4. Each year the ASG NEiTA Foundation requests nominations for the award.
5. ASG have announced the names of 15 New Zealand regional teachers and leaders who would progress to the final stage of the Awards. From the 15 regional nominations, six national award recipients have been selected and will be presented with an award at the upcoming ceremony.
6. The NEiTA judging panel will attend the ceremony and is made up of:

NEiTA Judge	Ms	Lorraine	Kerr, MNZM	President	New Zealand School Trustees Association
NEiTA Judge	Mr	Patrick	Walsh	Principal	John Paul College
NEiTA Judge	Ms	Joanne	Hayes	Head of department Education, Social Sciences and Languages	Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology

ASG

7. ASG was established in Australia in 1974 which began to operate in New Zealand in 1990. ASG holds an Australian Financial Services License and has a registered office in Oakleigh, Victoria.
8. Across both Australia and New Zealand, ASG has supported more than 530,000 children and provided more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments since the company was established. The New Zealand operation has enrolled more than 72,000 children since operations began.

Key Risks and Benefits

9. The ASG NEiTA ceremony presents an opportunity to acknowledge six exceptional teachers and leaders, and to also recognise the important role that teachers play in shaping future generations.

10. ASG is a leading provider of education funds in New Zealand and Australia. The company also produces and disseminates a range of research-based publications and material focussed on education issues. The most recent local publication from ASG provided was an analysis of the cost of education in New Zealand in 2018. This is available online here:

<https://www.asg.com.au/doc/default-source/2018-asg-planning-for-education-media-releases---australia/asg-planning-for-education-index-new-zealand-online-approvedb8571d0e515d67af8babff6300a58543.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

11. ASG undertake a number of education and community initiatives for children, parents, teachers and educators. The majority of these programmes operate in Australia, however, they have recently partnered with the Life Education Trust to help roll out a cyberbullying program to New Zealand schools.
12. ASG have provided a run sheet for the event which is attached as Annex A.

Talking Points or Speech Notes

13. This Government is championing a high quality public education system that provides all New Zealanders with lifelong learning opportunities so that they can discover and develop their full potential, follow their dreams, engage fully in society, and lead rewarding and fulfilling lives.
14. We believe in an education system that brings out the very best in everyone and that means our educational offerings need to be as diverse as the learners we cater for.
15. As part of this, we are focused on quality teaching. The quality of teaching is the single most important in-school factor in raising achievement. To meet our goal of delivering personalised education in our schools, we need highly skilled and motivated teachers and leaders.
16. Quality teachers can act to remove the inequities experienced by some children and young people. Great teachers change lives.
17. High quality leadership matters, too – and when leaders focus on leading learning they make a significant positive impact for their children and young people.
18. On becoming Minister one of the first things I wanted to address was the undervaluing and devaluing of the teaching profession.
19. Initially we addressed issues where teachers had told us they were being ignored. Charter Schools were abolished, national standards were removed, and in 2018 we passed a law change to give teachers back their own professional regulatory body, the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand. This year teachers will again elect the majority of the Council.
20. We have taken quick action on the shortage of teachers which has built up over the past 10 years. We have ramped up our efforts and are spending \$40m to fill the rising number of teacher vacancies that are expected in 2019 and 2020. So far we have:
- Funded over 1,300 enrolments in the Teacher Education Refresh (TER) programme, removing cost barriers so teachers can stay in, or return to, teaching
 - Approved more than 280 overseas relocation grants, making it easier for Kiwi teachers to return home and encouraging overseas teachers to teach here.

This is from a pool of over 9,000 people who have applied to teach in New Zealand as part of our overseas recruitment campaign

- c. Expanded the Auckland Beginner Teachers programme to 60 places in 2018 and a further 61 in 2019
 - d. Increased the number of new teachers training through Teach First to 80 in both 2018 and 2019
 - e. Provided 230 grants to support schools to employ beginning teachers.
 - f. Made 300 teachers who started their teaching in 2018 eligible for the Voluntary Bonding Scheme to encourage them to work in decile 2 and 3 Auckland schools, and nationwide in some subjects and in Māori medium kura.
21. We have been working to raise the status of the profession and attract new teachers through the 'Become A Teacher' marketing campaign. This has included the wonderful television adverts you may have seen on our screens last year in te reo Māori and English – these were real stories from real people showing the true value of teaching.
 22. Our New Zealand campaign has been supplemented by overseas marketing campaigns to bring Kiwi teachers home and add further diversity to the workforce by attracting teachers from countries with similar jurisdictions.
 23. To achieve our vision of a high quality, high trust, and high respect for the education workforce, the education sector and the Government need to work together in partnership on both long and short term issues.
 24. While we are confident that we are addressing the immediate shortage of teachers we know we also need to plan for the long term.
 25. Your achievements as teachers and education leaders inspire us as we work in partnership with your sector representatives to develop a world first – a future focused learner-centred Education Workforce Strategy.
 26. The Strategy will cover early learning, primary and secondary education, the learning support workforce, both Māori-medium and English-medium, and Māori language learning in all settings. It will address education workforce attraction and retention challenges over the long term so that we support and develop a highly capable, multi-disciplinary workforce to allow teachers to focus on quality teaching and learning for all learners.
 27. The Strategy will also look for quick wins, including how to reduce the administrative burden on teachers and school leaders. The taskforce I established to reduce unnecessary compliance has completed its first stage of work. The joint group of school principals and other sector leaders has identified a number of potential opportunities to cut red tape and is now working with the sector to refine the plan that will free up more time for teaching and will contribute to greater well-being of teachers and principals.
 28. New Zealand is on the cusp of huge educational change. We are working to build the world leading education system for all our children and young people. It's a big, but achievable goal and I value the opportunity to recognise some of the many excellent teachers who each day have a huge impact on our young people. Not only in the quality of their education but on their personal character; their future employment prospects, and on their roles as leaders and active participants in our nation.

Proactive Release

29. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released after the awards ceremony 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

Annex A:



New Zealand NEiTA Awards Event Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 4.00-6.00pm Friday 22nd February 2019

TIME	ACTION	ACTIVITY	PEOPLE REQUIRED
15.45-16.00	Welcome guests Photos required	Registration and welcome drink on arrival – inside the Grand Hall	NEiTA coordinators for name badges
16.00	Allen Blewitt, Ross Higgins and Craig Dunstan	Minister arrives at the Parliament Buildings, and taken to the Grand Hall	Allen Blewitt, Chairman, NEiTA Foundation and Ross Higgins, CEO ASG and Craig Dunstan, Board Chair at the entrance
16.10pm	Patrick Walsh Photos required	Group Photo Patrick Walsh (MC), Minister Hipkins, Allen Blewitt, Ross Higgins and Craig Dunstan	2 x group photos required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister & recipients Minister Hipkins, Allen Blewitt, Ross Higgins, Craig Dunstan + recipients
16.15 pm	Seating guests	Guest invited to take their seats	MC and NEiTA coordinators
16.20 - 16.25	Patrick Walsh Photos required	Introduction: Patrick Walsh, (MC) OH&S Message and welcome note	Patrick Walsh, Principal, John Paul College
16.25-16.30	Allen Blewitt Photos required Allen returns to his seat	Welcome Address: Allen Blewitt, Chairman, NEiTA Foundation	Allen Blewitt
16.30	MC introduces Minister	Patrick Walsh (MC) introduces Minister Hipkins and invites him on stage	Minister Hipkins comes on stage
16.30	Minister on stage Photos required	Keynote Address by Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education	Minister to remain on stage after his address for presentation of awards
16.35	Roll video of primary school recipients 50 sec video x 2 Photos required Minister remains on stage	Patrick Walsh (MC) thanks Minister and announces awards presentation and introduces recipients of the Primary School category: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Rodger - Avonhead School, Avonhead, Christchurch Delwyn Kruffyff - Albany Primary School, Albany, Auckland <p>Photo opportunity: Minister & recipient</p>	MC reads names of each recipient followed by video clip on each recipient Each recipient comes up on stage as their video is being played and receives certificate, trophy and cheque for \$5,000 from Minister
16.45	Roll video of Secondary School recipients 50 sec video x 2 recipients	Patrick Walsh calls Allen Blewitt on stage and Allen introduces the recipients of the Secondary School category: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paulene Walsh – John Paul College, Utuhina, Rotorua 	Allen reads names of each recipient followed by video clip on each recipient Each recipient comes up on stage as their video is being played and receives certificate, trophy and

	<i>Photos required</i>	<p>2. Ricky Chan - Freyberg High School, Palmerston North, Dunedin</p> <p>3. Subash Chandar K - Ormiston Senior College, Manukau, Auckland</p> <p><u>Photo opportunity:</u> Minister & recipient</p>	<i>cheque for \$5,000 from Minister</i>
16.55	<p><i>Roll video of ASG NEITA Founders Award for Leadership</i></p> <p><i>50 sec video</i></p> <p><i>Photos required</i></p> <p><i>Minister on stage</i></p>	<p>Patrick Walsh (MC) introduces the recipients of the NEITA founders award for Leadership</p> <p>1. Yolande Franke - Howick Intermediate School, Howick, Auckland</p> <p><u>Photo opportunity:</u> Minister & recipient</p>	<p><i>MC reads names of recipient followed by video clip</i></p> <p><i>Recipient comes up on stage as her video is being played and receives certificate, trophy and cheque for \$5,000 from Minister</i></p>
17.05	<p><i>Patrick Walsh</i></p> <p><i>Minister returns to his seat</i></p> <p><i>Ross Higgins ASG CEO comes on-stage</i></p>	<p>Patrick Walsh (MC) thanks Minister as he returns to his seat</p> <p>MC invites Ross Higgins ASG CEO to present the ASG Space Camp Teacher Ambassador for New Zealand</p>	
17.05	<p><i>Roll video of NEITA Teacher Ambassador of the Year</i></p> <p><i>50 sec video</i></p> <p><i>Photos required</i></p> <p><i>Ross Higgins returns to his seat</i></p>	<p>MC invites Ross Higgins, CEO ASG on stage</p> <p>Ross introduces the ASG Space Camp Teacher Ambassador for New Zealand</p> <p>1. Subash Chandar K - Ormiston Senior College, Manukau, Auckland</p> <p><u>Photo opportunity:</u> Ross & recipient</p>	<p><i>Ross reads his address and the name of recipient followed by video clip of Subash</i></p> <p><i>Recipient comes up on stage as last year's Space Camp video is being played and receives certificate and trophy from Ross</i></p>
17.15	<p><i>Patrick Walsh</i></p> <p><i>Photos required</i></p> <p><i>Craig Dunstan on stage</i></p>	<p>Patrick Walsh (MC) introduces Craig Dunstan, ASG Board Chair</p> <p>Closing address: Craig Dunstan</p>	
17.20		High Tea served inside the Grand Hall	
17.30		Minister leaves	Farewell by Craig, Allen and Ross
17.45	<i>Patrick Walsh</i>	Patrick Walsh (MC) thanks everyone for attending and closes proceedings	
17.45	<i>Group Photos</i>	Group photo of recipients, category photos	Mark Tantrum National recipients
18.00		Event concludes	