



**Education Report:** Letter to APIS regarding Tomorrow's Schools Review Consultation and the potential review of state-integrated schools

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jenny Salesa, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	30 January 2019	<b>Priority:</b>	Low
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1174329
<b>Drafter:</b>	Sohini Smith	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Ben O'Meara	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	N/A	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

**Purpose**

On 18 December 2018 you met with the Association of Proprietors of Integrated Schools (APIS). At this meeting APIS requested further information on the Tomorrow's Schools review and potential impacts of the Taskforce's recommendations for state-integrated schools. This briefing provides some high level information on the review recommendations, along with a draft letter, for your signature, to APIS to encourage them and their network of state-integrated schools to participate in the public consultation regarding the Taskforce's report.

The paper also recommends that the Government not proceed with the scheduled review of state-integrated schools at this time, in light of the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce's report.

**Recommended actions**

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **note** the information provided in this report on the potential impacts of the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce's recommendations on state-integrated schools

Noted

- b. **approve** the draft letter to APIS attached as Annex 1

Approved / Not Approved / Approved with amendments

c. **note** that we recommend not to proceed with the review of state-integrated schools at this time

Noted

d. **note** that instead we recommend progressing this work as part of the Government response to the review of Tomorrow's Schools

Noted

e. **discuss** this proposed approach with Minister Hipkins

Agree / Disagree

Proactive Release Recommendation:

f. **agree** that this Education Report should be proactively released, as part of the next publication of reports and briefings.

Agree / Disagree



Dr Andrea Schöllmann  
Deputy Secretary  
Education System Policy

30/01/2019



Hon Jenny Salesa  
Associate Minister of Education

12/2/19.

## Background

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### Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce report

1. The Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce (the Taskforce) publicly released its report *Our Schooling Futures, Stronger Together | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātinini* on 7 December 2018. The Independent Taskforce made recommendations about the way state and state-integrated schools and Kura are run, governed and managed.
2. The Government has asked the Taskforce to publicly consult on the report and recommendations until 7 April 2019. In February and March 2019, the Taskforce will seek feedback through a series of regional consultation meetings. Members of the public can also provide feedback through an online survey, now available on the Taskforce's website, and by making submissions on the report during the consultation period. The Taskforce is required to report back to the Minister of Education by 30 April 2019 on the outcomes of their consultation. Information gathered during the consultation will also inform the ongoing policy advice the Ministry provides to support decisions on the review.
3. Following your meeting with APIS on 18 December 2018, you requested additional information from the Ministry regarding the impacts of the Taskforce's recommendations on state-integrated schools. This is provided below.
4. We propose that you write to Mr Paul Ferris, Chief Executive of APIS, thanking him for meeting with you and encouraging APIS and its network of state-integrated schools to take part in the consultation on the Taskforce's report.
5. A draft letter from you to Mr Paul Ferris is attached at annex 1.

### Potential Impacts of Taskforce recommendations on state-integrated schools

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6. If the Government adopted the Taskforce's recommendations, changes would all affect state-integrated schools, because they are, for the most part, governed, managed and administered in similar ways to state schools.
7. Some of the Taskforce's recommendations pertain to the unique features of state-integrated schools. These recommendations relate to:
  - a. Proposed Education Hub functions such as:
    - i. appointing principals/tumuaki with school boards retaining the right to veto an appointment.
    - ii. overseeing networks of state and state-integrated schools.
    - iii. reviewing enrolment schemes.
    - iv. reviewing attendance dues required by state-integrated schools
  - b. The amount of donations state and state-integrated schools can ask of parents.
  - c. Transport subsidies for students attending state-integrated schools.
8. Before any Government decisions on the Review are made, the Taskforce will be consulting with the public on their report and preparing advice for the Minister of Education on the outcome of their consultation. Given the potential impact of the

Taskforce's recommendations on state-integrated schools, it would be valuable for APIS and individual state-integrated schools to take part in the consultation on the report.

9. Further, any substantial changes to the education system, such as changes to the legal powers and responsibilities of school boards of trustees, will require legislative change. This will provide additional opportunities for public consultation through the select committee process.

## Review of state-integrated schools

10. In August 2018 we provided you with advice on framing a potential review of state-integrated schools [METIS 1146346 refers]. We recommended that any review of state-integrated schools be framed as a potential review that would aim to address whether there are any opportunities to reduce barriers to accessing education at state-integrated schools.
11. We advised you that a decision on whether or not to proceed with a specific review of the settings for state-integrated schools should wait until after the Independent Taskforce on Tomorrow's Schools has reported back.
12. Some of the recommendations of the Independent Taskforce cover issues that we recommended for inclusion in a potential review of state-integrated schools. These particular issues are:

*Table 2: Issues previously identified for a review of state-integrated schools that are covered by the recommendations of the Independent Taskforce*

Issue	Rationale for exploring changes	Taskforce recommendation #
Student selection practices	There is currently low visibility of the student selection practices that state-integrated schools employ to determine whether students meet 'preference' criteria. We understand that some schools might use unlawful processes such as interviews or tests to select non-preference students.	12
More active management of the network of state-integrated schools	The Ministry has limited ability to manage the network of state-integrated schools. There are some instances of inefficiencies in the state-integrated schools network, but proprietors currently have limited incentives to merge or close schools.	11
School transport eligibility	This is one network management tool where the rules for state-integrated schools are not aligned with the rules for state schools.	12
Donations	Some state-integrated schools' approaches to requesting donations is unlawful (for instance, when they do not make it sufficiently clear that any donations are voluntary payments). While the Taskforce recommendation only refers to state schools, any review of donations would need to cover the	11

	practices of both state and state-integrated schools.	
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13. We recommend that policy decisions on the issues in Table 2 (above) proceed as part of the Government response to the review of Tomorrow's Schools, rather than as part of a separate review of state-integrated schools. Some of the recommendations of the Independent Taskforce may need to be expanded on to more fully address the issues we have identified.
14. We therefore recommend that a separate review of state-integrated schools does not proceed at this time. We recommend that you discuss this proposed approach with Minister Hipkins.

Annexes:

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Annex 1: Draft letter to Mr Paul Ferris, Chief Executive of APIS.