

Cabinet Paper material

Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Name of package Establishing the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award
Date considered 1 July 2019

These documents have been proactively released:

Cabinet paper: Establishing the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award

Date considered: 26 June 2019, Social Wellbeing Committee
Author: Ministry of Education

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee minute – SWC-19-MIN-0083

Date considered: 26 June 2019, Social Wellbeing Committee
Author: Cabinet Office

Cabinet minute – CAB-19-MIN-0329

Date considered: 1 July 2019
Author: Cabinet Office

Material redacted

Some deletions have been made from the documents as the information withheld does not fall within scope of the Minister's portfolio responsibilities, and is not relevant to the proactive release of this material.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Education
Chair, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Establishing the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award

Proposal

1. This paper seeks agreement to establish the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award (the Award) for calendar years 2019 and 2020.

Executive Summary

2. I propose to implement the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award (the Award) this calendar year.
3. The Award will be centred on giving out a \$2000 prize to a selected vocational student in each state secondary school and wharekura at their school prize giving.
4. To ensure that the Award can be delivered at school prize-giving ceremonies this year, I propose to announce the Award at the start of August.
5. The Award will be funded for the first two years of operation by drawing down \$2.25 million from the Emerging Priorities Fund established in Budget 2016 to resource the delivery of the Prime Minister's Vocational Education Award over 2019/20 to 2020/21.

Background

6. The Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award (the Award) would provide \$2000 for the top Year 12 or 13 student undertaking vocationally-orientated study in each state secondary school (including state-integrated secondary schools and composite schools with Year 12 and 13 students) and wharekura. Schools will select winners using criteria developed by the Ministry of Education in consultation with industry and employer representatives, iwi and education stakeholders.
7. Establishing the Award is expected to:
 - 7.1. contribute to increased demand for vocational education and skills development within participating state secondary schools and wharekura
 - 7.2. promote learner, parent and community understanding of the value and importance of vocational education and training

- 7.3. encourage community accountability for increased opportunities for meaningful vocational education and practical skills training within the secondary schooling system
- 7.4. encourage schools and wharekura to work with business, industry, and local tertiary education organisations to increase the quality, relevance and attractiveness of vocational education.
8. Broadly, vocational education is education and training that has a special emphasis on the skills, knowledge and attributes required to perform a specific role or to work in a specific industry. This is not limited to the traditional trades or professions but can relate to any sector of the economy.
9. There are a range of perceptions held by students, parents and educators that vocational education is less valuable than a traditional “academic” programme of study, aimed at a pathway to university. This often results in an undervaluing of strong vocational pathways on to meaningful employment or further vocational education – and an undervaluing of the students on those pathways.
10. In a survey undertaken by TEC in September 2018, only half the respondents had heard of the term “vocational.” Survey respondents saw university education as more prestigious, of a higher quality and for intelligent people as well as being better for a person’s long term career and earning power.
11. The Prime Minister’s Vocational Excellence Award will address this disparity, by enabling schools to develop public affirmation of the value of vocational education and pathways by celebrating the individual achievements of vocational students. Secondary benefits will include changes to local curriculum design to enhance vocational pathways for students.
12. The Award would complement the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) proposals. The proposals aim to ensure that vocational education is responsive to learners’ needs and supports an economy that is growing and working for everyone in New Zealand. A fit-for-purpose vocational education system should also raise the status of vocational pathways over the long term. The Award is an immediate action that can help raise the profile and status of vocational education. This may be a particularly timely commitment by Government, because there is a risk that uncertainty surrounding the proposed reforms will affect enrolments until the new system is fully in place.
13. I intend to announce the establishment of the Award by August 2019, with the first Awards given out in school and wharekura prize giving ceremonies from October 2019.
14. I propose to direct the Ministry of Education to deliver the Award by:
 - 14.1. developing eligibility and selection criteria and guidance to support schools to identify appropriate candidates who display vocational excellence

- 14.2. requiring schools to submit a brief application, identifying the student who they intend to give the Award to, and the rationale for that decision, to support the Award's credibility
- 14.3. transferring the Award sum to individual schools to award to winners in line with their usual prize-giving practices, alongside a certificate or other recognition of achievement.
15. The eligibility and selection criteria of the Award will be co-designed with stakeholders from the Vocational Education and Training sector, business groups, schools and students. Care is being taken to include the input of Māori and Pacific people, including iwi.
16. I intend that inaugural Awards be presented to winning students by Members of Parliament at school prize-giving ceremonies where possible and appropriate. This will support the aim of the Award by raising the profile of the celebration of vocational education in schools.

Consultation

17. This paper was authored by the Ministry of Education.
18. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was informed.
19. The Treasury was consulted.

Financial Implications

20. To fund the Award through 2019 and 2020, I seek \$2.25 million from the Prime Minister's Emerging Priorities Fund. The Ministry of Education estimates that it will cost \$300,000 for the first year, and then \$150,000 for each year thereafter, to administer the Award to every school in the country. The cost of the prizes will total \$900,000 in each year, based on 450 secondary schools and wharekura implementing the Award in each year.
21. I will seek further funding for the Award in subsequent years through Budget 2021.

Gender Implications

22. Young New Zealanders of all gender identities participate in vocational education. No specific gender impact analysis has been undertaken. Instead, care has been taken to ensure that the perspectives of all genders, and gender-diverse people, have been able to influence the development of the criteria of the Award.

Publicity

23. Significant publicity is planned for the Award. I will announce the Award through a press release and launch event in early August. The Award will also be promoted

through communications directly to schools and an online marketing campaign, as well as the development of a website.

Proactive Release

24. I propose to release this paper proactively, but only after the Award has been announced. Release will be subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister for Education and the Prime Minister recommend that the Committee:

- agree** the establishment of an annual Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award;
- note** that this award will enable schools and wharekura to publicly affirm the value of vocational education and pathways by celebrating the individual achievements of vocational students via provision of \$2000 award for the top Year 12 or 13 student undertaking vocationally-orientated study in each public secondary school and wharekura;
- approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 1 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Education Minister of Education	\$m - increase / (decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Support and Resources for Education Providers (funded by revenue Crown)	0.300	0.150	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses Scholarships and Awards for Students	0.900	0.900	-	-	-
Total Operating	1.200	1.050	-	-	-

- agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
- agree** that the expenses incurred in recommendation 3 above be charged against the Emerging Priorities Fund established as part of Budget 2016;

6. **note** that additional funding for the Award for 2021 and subsequent years will be sought in the context of Budget 2021.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister for Education

Proactively Released by the Minister of Education



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Establishing the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award

Portfolio **Education**

On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **agreed** to the establishment of an annual Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award;
- 2 **noted** that this award will enable schools and wharekura to publicly affirm the value of vocational education and pathways by celebrating the individual achievements of vocational students via provision of \$2000 award for the top Year 12 or 13 student undertaking vocationally-orientated study in each public secondary school and wharekura;
- 3 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the decision in paragraph 1 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Education Minister of Education	\$m - increase / (decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Support and Resources for Education Providers (funded by revenue Crown)	0.300	0.150	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses Scholarships and Awards for Students	0.900	0.900	-	-	-
Total Operating	1.200	1.050	-	-	-

- 4 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
- 5 **agreed** that the expenses incurred in paragraph 3 above be charged against the Emerging Priorities Fund established as part of Budget 2016, and will be drawn down with the approval of the Prime Minister;

6 **noted** that additional funding for the Award for 2021 and subsequent years will be sought in the context of Budget 2021.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Tracey Martin (Chair)
Hon Peeni Henare
Jan Logie, MP

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Education

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Office of the Deputy Chair
Officials Committee for SWC

Proactively Released by the Minister of Education



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Redactions made as content outside scope of Minister's portfolio responsibility
Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2019

On 1 July 2019, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 28 June 2019:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
SWC-19-MIN-0083	Establishing the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award Portfolio: Education	CONFIRMED
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

