

UPDATE OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1989

Improving legislation to support a high performing education system for New Zealand

The Education (Update) Amendment Bill (the Bill) amends the Education Act 1989 (the Act) to make the achievement and learning of children and young people central to the early childhood education and compulsory schooling Parts of the Act.

The Bill is one aspect of the Minister of Education's Education Work Programme.

In mid-2014 the Taskforce on Regulations Affecting School Performance (the Taskforce) recommended change to create a greater focus on student outcomes in the Act, more explicit roles and objectives, and improved usability and clarity.

In late-2015 Cabinet approved public consultation on the Update. The Ministry received over 1800 submissions. Throughout the wide range of views expressed, the common theme was the importance of education in providing better personal, economic and civic outcomes for our children and young people.

The Act has been amended piecemeal over the past 27 years and needs to better fit a 21st century education system. It is timely to consider how a legislative framework can place learners at the centre of the education system, providing an enduring vision of success for all young New Zealanders, and certainty about what the education system is expected to achieve.

The Act needs to be updated to provide a more coherent framework that meets the needs of the early childhood and schooling environments now and into the future.

