



## Education Report: Ministerial Youth Advisory Group – October 2018 Meeting

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	8 October, 2018	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1156193
<b>Drafter:</b>	Esther Tinirau Programme Director (Acting), Parent and Community Information	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<b>Key contact and number:</b>	Rose Jamieson Deputy Secretary (Acting), Parent Information and Community Intelligence	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<b>Press Release seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round robin:</b>	No

Tēnā koe Minister

### Purpose of report

This report seeks your approval of the proposed agenda for the next meeting of the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to be held on 25 and 26 October 2018. We also seek decisions on letters to members thanking them for their contribution and approval to issue a press release regarding the recruitment process for two new members.

## Recommendations

---

1. The Ministry recommends you:

a. **note** the next YAG meeting is on 25 – 26 October and you are scheduled to attend between 10.30am – 11.30am on Friday 26 October

**Noted**

b. **note** Associate Ministers Salesa and Davis are scheduled to attend the meeting on Thursday 25 October

**Noted**

c. **approve** the agenda for the YAG meeting (Annex 1)

**Approved / Not Approved**

d. **sign** the letters to departing and continuing YAG members for 2019 (Annex 2)

**Agree / Disagree**

e. **note** the revised timeline for recruiting two new YAG members (Annex 3)

**Noted**

f. **agree** to issue a press release announcing the continuation of YAG for 2019 and opening the recruitment process for two new members between 27 October and 2 November (Annex 4)

**Agree / Disagree**

g. **agree** to being filmed at the YAG meeting for the promotional video to recruit two, new members

**Agree / Disagree**

h. **note** Abby McRoberts, one of the departing YAG members, was placed third in the "Smart Ideas: Smart Futures" category of the NCEA Review *Make Your Mark* competition.

**Noted**

i. **agree** this Education Report is proactively released as part of the next publication.

**Release / Not Release**

  
Rose Jamieson  
**Deputy Secretary (Acting)**  
**Parent Information and**  
**Community Intelligence Group**

8/10/18

  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

21/10/18

## YAG meeting agenda

---

2. The next YAG meeting is scheduled for 25 and 26 October. The agenda for the meeting is attached for your approval (Annex 1). The key focus areas for the meeting are:
  - **School Leaver's Toolkit** – providing input into the development of the Toolkit
  - **Careers Action Plan** – evaluating options and identifying gaps for careers advice
  - **Educationally powerful connections, relationships and partnerships** – what skills and capabilities do schools need to build and support powerful connections, relationships and partnerships with parents, families, whānau and communities?
  - **Identity, language and culture** – how accessible is identity, language and culture in a school setting? Is it equitable? What improvements can the education system make?
  - **2019 YAG meetings** – preferred meeting dates for 2019
  - **YAG alumni** – identifying YAG expectations of the role and function of the proposed alumni
  - **Disability and learning support** – review of the draft Action Plan.
3. You are scheduled to meet with YAG on Friday 26 October, 10.30am – 11.30am. Subject to your approval of the agenda, we have planned for you to:
  - hear key messages from YAG
  - thank YAG for their contribution to a successful year
  - confirm continuation of YAG for 2019
  - farewell two YAG members
  - be filmed for the recruitment process of two, new YAG members.
4. Associate Ministers, Salesa and Davis will meet with YAG on Thursday 25 October 2018 at 12.30pm and 3.30pm respectively, for 45 minutes each.

## YAG 2019

---

5. You have agreed that YAG will continue for 2019 and will use your discretion as Minister to formalise this (METIS 1146750 refers). Ten of the current members will continue, while two will retire because they no longer meet the age criteria.
6. We have drafted letters for your signature to all YAG members. The letters acknowledge the YAG members and their contribution to a successful year. For the ten who will continue, the letter also confirms their continued membership for 2019 (Annex 2).

## YAG Recruitment Process

---

7. A recruitment campaign will open on 2 November and close on 18 November, 2018 to replace the two departing members. We expect you could make an announcement of the appointments by 21 December. A high-level timeline has been included for your information (Annex 3).
8. The Ministry will design two promotional videos for the recruitment process that will include footage of you promoting the benefits of having youth voices and YAG. One video will be a call to action to get young people to “apply now”. The second is a promotional ‘storytelling’ video about the benefits of YAG. We seek your approval to film you engaging with YAG members during your session on Friday, 26 October.
9. Your approval is sought to the proposed questions below that YAG members will ask you in the video.
  - What did you enjoy most about your interactions with the YAG?
  - What advice did you receive from the YAG in 2018 that you found most useful and also the most surprising?
  - What are your hopes for the YAG next year?
10. Subject to approval from your office, we will release the videos online when the recruitment process opens on 2 November. We recommend that your office shares the videos with other Ministers so they can promote them on their social media channels. We will send your office the online links when these are confirmed.

## Press release

---

11. A draft press release including questions and answers is attached for your approval (Annex 4). It announces the continuation of YAG for 2019, highlights successes for the year and thanks the two departing members. It also declares the opening of the recruitment process on 2 November and invites registrations of interest. As you will be confirming the continuation of YAG with YAG members on 26 October, we recommend that you issue this release between 27 October and 2 November.

## NCEA Review “Make Your Mark” competition winner

---

12. Abby McRoberts, a departing YAG member, was placed third in the “Smart Ideas: Smart Futures” category for the NCEA Review’s competition *Make Your Mark*. She received a \$1000 study grant. You may wish to acknowledge this when you attend the YAG meeting on 26 October. We will send the YouTube link of her video entry to your office should you wish to view this.

## Next Steps

---

13. We recommend you launch the recruitment process for two new members by issuing the press release between 26 October and 2 November.
14. We will provide an Education Report to you in mid-November with advice from the Youth Advisory Group following the meeting on 25 and 26 October 2018.

## Annexes

---

- Annex 1: Draft agenda for October 2018 YAG meeting
- Annex 2: Draft letters to YAG members and address list
- Annex 3: Timeline for appointment of new YAG members
- Annex 4: Draft press release announcing continuation of YAG and opening of recruitment process for two new members

Proactively Released

## Youth Advisory Group

### Meeting Agenda

#### 25 – 26 October 2018

<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday 25 October (9.00am) – Friday 26 October 2018 (2.00pm)		
<b>Venue:</b>	Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington Meeting rooms: Thursday – <b>Room 1.07</b> and Friday – <b>Room 2. 1</b>		
<b>YAG members:</b>	Abby McRoberts Costa Blackman Kate Morris Okirano Tilaia	Bevan Penn Geniqua Samupo Liam McLeavey Shaneel Lal	Bodi Cross Hadassah Wharawhara Nat'an Farr Watene Campbell
<b>Ministers:</b>	Minister Salesa (Thursday)	Minister Davis (Thursday)	Minister Hipkins (Friday)
<b>Presenters (MOE):</b>	Miriam Gibson Sally Jackson	David Barnes	Georgina Muir
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Serena Curtis-Lemuelu		
<b>Co-ordinator:</b>	Natasha Maraku		
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Pirihira Hollings		

Thursday 25 October 2018	Owner	Time
1. Arrive		0845 - 0900
2. School Leaver's Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building skills and capabilities throughout your educational pathway from Year 7 to Year 11+</li> <li>• Presentation</li> <li>• Workshop</li> <li>• Discuss</li> </ul>	Miriam Gibson	0900 - 0945
3. Careers Advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you looking for in careers advice to help you transition successfully from school to further education and employment?</li> <li>• Evaluating the current draft options and identifying any gaps</li> </ul>	David Barnes	0945 - 1030
4. BREAK		1030 – 1100

5. <b>Educationally powerful connections, relationships and partnerships</b>	Serena	1100 - 1200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building connections, relationships and partnerships with your parents, families, whānau, communities and iwi.</li> <li>What are the skills and capabilities required to build the powerful connections?</li> <li>How to engage the disengaged?</li> </ul>		
6. <b>Develop key messages for Minister Salesa</b>	Serena	1200 – 1230
7. <b>Meet with Minister Salesa</b>	YAG	1230 – 1315
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This engagement will be over lunch.</li> </ul>		
8. <b>BREAK</b>		1315 – 1400
9. <b>Identity, Language and Culture (ILC)</b>	Serena	1400 – 1500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every person has their own ILC. What does it mean to you?</li> <li>ILC accessibility and equity – how can the education system improve this for all children and young people?</li> </ul>		
10. <b>Develop key messages for Minister Davis</b>	Serena	1500 – 1530
11. <b>Meet with Minister Davis</b>	YAG	1530 - 1615
12. <b>Dates for 2019</b>	Serena	1615 – 1630
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed meeting dates for 2019 for Minister Hipkins consideration.</li> </ul>		
13. <b>WRAP</b>		1630
<b>Friday 26 October 2018</b>		
	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Time</b>
14. <b>Arrive</b>		0900 – 0915
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members and camera operator arrive and set up</li> </ul>		
15. <b>YAG Alumni</b>	YAG	0915 – 1000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What would its role/function be?</li> <li>Your expectations.</li> </ul>		
16. <b>Develop key messages for Minister Hipkins</b>	Serena	1000 – 1030
17. <b>Meet with Minister Hipkins</b>	YAG and Minister Hipkins	1030 – 1130
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key messages from the last two days</li> <li>Reflection of the year</li> <li>Minister farewell departing members</li> <li>Film video for recruitment of new members</li> </ul>		
18. <b>Review of the Disability and Learning Support Action Plan</b>	Georgina Muir	1130 – 1230
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the Ministry have the right priorities?</li> <li>Which priorities would make the biggest difference?</li> <li>What's missing?</li> </ul>	Sally Jackson	
19. <b>LUNCH and farewell for the year</b>		1230 – 1400
20. <b>WRAP</b>		1400

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Watene Campbell  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Watene,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Hipkins'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Shaneel Lal

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Shaneel,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CH', is written over the signature line.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Okirano Tilaia

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Okirano,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Nathan Farr

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Nathan,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Liam McLeavey  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Liam,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Kate Morris

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Kate,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

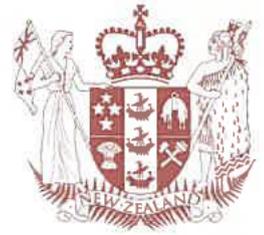
I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Hadassah Wharawhara  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Hadassah,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



## MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Geniqua Talagi-Samupo  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Geniqua,

### Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Hipkins'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Costa Blackman

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Costa,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CHIPKINS', written over a large diagonal watermark that says 'Proactively Released'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Brodie Cross

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Brodie,

## Youth Advisory Group 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year. I am pleased to extend your tenure into 2019 and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Over the course of 2018, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of views and experiences of the education system, as well as ideas about improvements. I have a number of advisory groups that I have engaged with to assist the government's education work programme. You have represented the voice of young people as we seek to build a world-class education system.

I have really appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

See you in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hipkins'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Bevan Penn

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Bevan,

## **Youth Advisory Group Member 2018**

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year.

The Group has provided me with a diverse range of insights and perspectives during the past year on issues including the importance of wellbeing for young New Zealanders, issues with NCEA "credit farming" and overassessment, and in-depth insights about the national education conversation.

The quality of thinking and the leadership the Group has demonstrated as representatives of young people nationwide, has been impressive. This is one of the key 'expert groups' which I tap into regularly to help guide the changes we need to make to fully modernise our education system. Your voices have added considerable value to the government's education work programme.

Throughout 2018, you have demonstrated effective communication skills, were mindful of other people's opinions and perspectives, and have worked collaboratively with other members. I have appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

I wish you all the best for your continued success.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins



**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Abby McRoberts  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Abby,

## Youth Advisory Group Member 2018

I would like to thank you for your insightful contribution to the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (YAG) during its first year.

The Group has provided me with a diverse range of insights and perspectives during the past year on issues including the importance of wellbeing for young New Zealanders, issues with NCEA “credit farming” and overassessment, and in-depth insights about the national education conversation.

The quality of thinking and the leadership the Group has demonstrated as representatives of young people nationwide, has been impressive. This is one of the key ‘expert groups’ which I tap into regularly to help guide the changes we need to make to fully modernise our education system. Your voices have added considerable value to the government’s education work programme.

Throughout 2018, you have demonstrated effective communication skills, were mindful of other people’s opinions and perspectives, and have worked collaboratively with other members. I have appreciated your perspectives and constructive advice on issues and opportunities that are important to young people.

Abby, I also wish to acknowledge your placing third in the “Smart Ideas:Smart Futures” category for the for the NCEA Review’s competition Make Your Mark. Your suggestions on improvements for NCEA were practical and aligned with the importance of equity, wellbeing and engagement with parents, whānau, communities and employers.

I wish you all the best for your continued success.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

### Annex 3: Timeline for appointment of new YAG members

Responsible	Key event/deliverables	Date
<b>Stage 1: set up application process</b>		
MoE and Minister	Videographer to film the Minister engaging with YAG at the next YAG meeting	26 Oct
Minister's Office	Sign off recruitment video	1 Nov
Minister's Office	Release PR, which covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlights successes for first year</li> <li>• continuation of YAG for 2019</li> <li>• thanking the two outgoing members</li> <li>• launch of recruitment process on 2 November.</li> </ul>	By 2 Nov
<b>Stage 2: launch application process and YAG content update</b>		
MoE	Applications open online (education.govt.nz)	2 Nov
MoE	Applications close	18 Nov
<b>Stage 3: New members selection</b>		
MoE	Ministry panel shortlists applications	19 Nov
MoE	Shortlisted people provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signed consent form</li> <li>• Proof of identification, and</li> <li>• Biography</li> </ul>	20 – 26 Nov
MoE	Education Report to the Minister. The report will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations for new members</li> <li>• Press release to announce new members</li> <li>• Appointment letters to new members</li> </ul>	4 Dec
Minister's Office	Minister approves new members	By 18 Dec
MoE	Successful applicants notified	19 Dec
Minister's Office	Press release: Minister announces new YAG members. <b>NB: Minister's last day of the year is 21 Dec</b>	20 – 21 Dec

## **Hon Chris Hipkins**

**Minister of Education**



### **Media Statement**

[date]

## **Youth Advisory Group will continue in 2019**

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group will continue into 2019 following a successful inaugural year, Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced today.

“The Group has provided me with a diverse range of insights and perspectives on topics including the importance of wellbeing for young New Zealanders, issues with NCEA “credit farming” and e-portfolio assessment, and the national education conversation,” Mr Hipkins said.

“I’m really pleased with the quality of thinking and the leadership the Group has demonstrated as representatives of young people nationwide. This is one of the key ‘expert groups’ that we regularly engage with to help guide the changes we need to make to fully modernise our education system. Their voices have added considerable value to the government’s education work portfolio programme.

“I’m looking forward to hearing more from them in 2019 and meeting two new members who will join the remaining 10 members to complete the Group.”

Mr Hipkins thanked the two outgoing members Bevan Penn of Wellington and Abby McRoberts of Porirua for their contributions in 2018.

Mr Hipkins is taking this opportunity to urge young people to apply to be a Ministerial Youth Advisory Group member and join the ongoing conversation about the future of New Zealand’s education system.

“I want to provide opportunities for all children and young people to have their say and the Advisory Group is an effective channel for their voices to be heard. This

is an exciting way for our young New Zealanders to get involved in the design of policy.”

Applications for two new members for the 2019 Ministerial Youth Advisory Group will open on the Ministry of Education website on 2 November and close on 18 November.

## **Background**

The Youth Advisory Group was set up in November 2017 to enable young people to have their say and have more influence on the education system and issues that affect them. Insights from the Youth Advisory Group are shared with the Ministry of Education and other education sector agencies.

The 2018 Youth Advisory Group members, aged 14-18, are:

- Shaneel Lal, South Auckland
- Bevan Penn, Wellington
- Abby McRoberts, Porirua
- Liam McLeavey, Levin
- Okirano Tilaia, Christchurch
- Geniqua Samupo, West Auckland
- Brodie Cross, Christchurch
- Nathan Farr, Dunedin
- Hadassah Wharawhara, Kerikeri
- Costa Blackman, Tolaga Bay
- Kat Morris, Darfield
- Watene Campbell, Wellington

### **Q: Why is it important to have a Youth Advisory Group on education?**

A: Education shapes New Zealand and we often don't hear enough from those who we deliver education to. As the Minister of Education I feel it important that I do hear directly from young people about their experiences of education, as they use the system. I expect they will bring fresh perspectives and insights about the most important issues facing them today, with a particular focus on education.

### **Q: What will be your involvement in the 2019 Youth Advisory Group meetings or related events?**

A: I will attend each meeting of the Youth Advisory Group. Where I can't attend, I will request that another Minister attend. I am also briefed after each meeting and receive the key insights from the Ministry of Education.

### **Q: How do you select the members of the Youth Advisory Group?**

A: Ten members of the 2018 YAG are still eligible to serve and will continue in 2019. For the vacancies of the two retiring members we will run a recruitment process from 2 – 18 November. Ministry of Education officials provide a short-list of applicants for me to consider and I approve the successful candidates.

### **Q: What criteria do you use to select members (what skills/qualities were looked for)?**

A: The Group is determined by the following selection criteria:

- they are aged 14-18 on 1 Jan 2019
- they agree to the terms of references and conditions and,
- they are approved by the Minister of Education

### **Q: Why 14 to 18 year olds?**

A: The establishment of a Youth Advisory Group offers a fresh opportunity for our young people, 14-18 year olds, to provide their perspectives and insights about some of the most important education issues facing them today.

These young people are in the later stages of their learning journey through New Zealand's compulsory education system. This age group will be able to reflect back on their own experiences of primary and intermediate school education and their current experience in secondary. Additionally they can also look forward and think about their own learning pathways and think about what might help them to meet their goals and aspirations.

**Q: How long can someone be in the Youth Advisory Group?**

A: The tenure of the membership was initially one year. I have decided that the Group will continue for a further term of one year and review at the end of 2019. Membership ceases as well if criteria are no longer met.

**Q: How will the Youth Advisory Group be resourced?**

A: The Ministry of Education provides the secretariat support and resourcing for the Group. This includes:

- providing expertise support,
- covering the members' travel costs, catering and accommodation,
- reporting the Group's insights to me as Minister of Education and
- sharing the insights gathered with relevant Ministry groups and education sector agencies.

**Q: What happens to the students' views once they've shared them at the meetings?**

A: The Group meetings are facilitated and the information and insights generated during the discussions are collated. These are checked by the Group to make sure they accurately reflect their views. The Ministry then reports these back to me and the relevant Ministry business groups and education sector agencies where relevant.

**Q: Will the students' views be presented to policy people at the time they're making key decisions?**

A: All insights will be shared with the Ministry's policy teams and there may be specific times when policy teams are invited to attend a meeting when we are talking about specific policy.

**Q: Have New Zealand's children or young people's views and perspectives been taken into account by the education system in New Zealand before?**

A: Children and young people are at the centre of education in New Zealand and the update to the Education Act emphasises that point.

However, while research and educators often seek the views of learners, there has not been a formalised and sustained mechanism for young people to communicate their views on policy or voice their experiences of education with the Minister of Education. This group initiative establishes and enforces that mechanism for our young people.

**Q: Why did you set up this Youth Advisory Group?**

A: It is essential that all New Zealanders receive an education that is useful and relevant to them, so that they succeed and go on to further education in universities, polytechnics, other tertiary providers, or industry training such as apprenticeships; and that they have hope for their futures.

The establishment of a Youth Advisory Group in 2018 offered us a fresh and exciting opportunity to really engage with young people about education.

While we have some specific topics we may want to seek their views on, we also want the Advisory Group to have the opportunity to drive the conversation and decide what gets discussed at each meeting.

Over the past year, the Group has provided me with a diverse range of insights and perspectives about a range of topics including the importance of wellbeing for young New Zealanders, issues with NCEA “credit farming” and over-assessment, and the national education conversation.

**Q: What happened to the Online Youth Forum?**

The Online Youth Forum was set up to test the perspectives of the Youth Advisory Group with young people more broadly. The number of young people who registered to take part in the Forum was around 140 however those that then went on to join, following the establishment of the Youth Advisory Group, was minimal. The recent Education Conversation | Kōrero Mātauranga provided broader perspectives and insights from young people across New Zealand for me to access and reflect upon.

**Q: What's in store for 2019?**

I'm looking forward to hearing more from the current members in 2019 and meeting two new members who will join the remaining 10 members to complete the Group.

I'm really pleased with the quality of thinking and the ownership the Group is taking, as representatives of young people nationwide. This is one of the key 'expert groups' who I regularly engage with to help guide the changes we need to make to fully modernise our education system. Their voices have added considerable value to the government's education work portfolio programme and I know that their perspectives will continue to do so in 2019.