1177599 Briefing Note: Advice for your meeting with the Chair of the Education New Zealand Board

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Date: 5 March 2019
Priority: Medium
Security Level: In Confidence
METIS No: 1177599
Drafter: Karen Threadwell, International Education Policy
DDI: -
Key Contact: Suzanne Townsend, International Education
DDI: s 9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team: No
Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this paper is to provide you with advice for your meeting with the Chair of the Education New Zealand Board on Thursday 7 March 2019, following the Board’s strategy session.

Proactive Release
It is intended that this Briefing is proactively released 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.

Agree Disagree

Belinda Himiona
Group Manager, International Education
Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers
05/03/2019
Background

1. You are meeting with the Chair of the Education New Zealand (ENZ) Board on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 5:15 pm.

2. The purpose of this meeting is for ENZ to test its thinking around shaping its future strategic direction, following its strategy session scheduled for 5 and 6 March. ENZ will also want to ensure its thinking fully aligns to your priorities.

3. The meeting is an opportunity for you to have early input into the development of ENZ’s 2019 – 2023 Statement of Intent and 2019 – 2020 Statement of Performance Expectations.

Strategic direction for international education

4. The International Education Strategy (the Strategy) promotes a vision for international education that is designed to achieve economic, social and cultural benefits for New Zealand.

5. The Strategy represents a change in direction for the international education sector. Wellbeing and the student experience are front and centre for the Strategy and quality education is core to our value proposition. We are working on increasing outbound mobility for domestic students and global citizenship for all students, domestic and international. We will develop better pathways from secondary to tertiary education and from English language study to further education.

6. We remain committed to ensuring sustainable growth of the sector but through a focus on wellbeing and student experience and quality education. In this way, we are emphasising value over volume in international student enrolments.

Context for international education

7. The international landscape is changing. The ENZ Board will be looking in depth at international trends (social, demographic, geo-political, technology and student demand) influencing the future of international education. This raises new challenges and opportunities that will require a change of approach.

8. Domestically, we are now seeing some key shifts in international education. Regulatory settings for immigration and visas, English language and quality monitoring are being adjusted and aligned.

9. We are also seeing shifts in the market with low quality providers exiting and an increase in per-student revenue (volume to value).

10. In addition, international education in New Zealand is being expanded to include a focus on global citizenship and student wellbeing.
Education Work Programme

11. We are actively maximising opportunities for international education by integrating it into your Education Work Programme. Opportunities here are:

- attracting international students through a stronger vocational education system (Reform of Vocational Education)
- strengthening our teaching and learning approach for all learners, equipping teachers for education in a global and culturally diverse world (curriculum development)
- access for all learners to mobility opportunities and development as global citizens, in particular Māori (Ka Hikitia) learners.

12. The International Education Strategy was the first ‘cab off the rank’ among a number of medium term strategies. We are making connections between the development of that Strategy and others.

13. The Ministry and ENZ co-lead implementation of the Strategy. We expect to report back on progress to International Education Ministers in May 2019.

Your expectations of Education New Zealand

14. Meeting with the Board Chair is an opportunity for you to emphasise aspects of your Letter of Expectations and how it should inform their strategic direction and priorities.

15. You may like to talk about the need for ENZ to continue to contribute to New Zealand’s economic growth through its marketing function and its market intelligence function, while increasing the Government’s emphasis on quality education.

16. You may also like to seek an assurance from the Chair that ENZ understands the need to demonstrate sustainable business practices. This includes developing a sound evidential base for its decision-making, being transparent with its investment and operations, and using its funds effectively. In the past, stakeholders have criticised ENZ for a lack of transparency, for example, in relation to expenditure funded through the Export Education Levy. You could reasonably expect the organisation to have taken steps to rectify this.

17. ENZ intends to explore how it can increase transparency over offshore activities through its reporting, which we support. Being able to show the impact of the activities which it is responsible for and the return on investment will be important.

18. ENZ is looking for investment opportunities to help it meet the objectives of the Strategy. They may well raise ideas with you for future investment through budget bids.
Statement of Intent (SOI) and Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) development

19. In our role as lead entity monitor for ENZ, we will be working with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to provide you with advice alongside ENZ’s draft SOI and SPE in late April.

20. Once you receive the draft documents, the process is that:
   a. you are required to provide any feedback within 15 working days, and then
   b. ENZ must consider any comments and provide the final SOI and SPE to you as soon as practicable, but before the start of the upcoming financial year (1 July 2019).

21. Our engagement with ENZ will begin in early March. Some of the key themes we will discuss include:
   a. focus and understanding outcomes
   b. how ENZ is reflecting its understanding of customers and their needs (including student wellbeing)
   c. alignment to your priorities (including your 2018/19 Letter of Expectations)
   d. alignment to your Education Work Programme and relevant system strategies
   e. proposed changes to measures
   f. forecast financial statements.

Next Steps

22. We will continue to work with ENZ to deliver your strategic vision for international education in New Zealand through joint work on implementing the Strategy. We will report to you and other International Education Ministers on progress in May 2019.

23. We will also continue, through our monitoring role, to work with ENZ to ensure that performance and risk are well managed. Advice on ENZ’s draft SPE and SOI will be provided to you in late April.