Briefing Note: Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Learning Support Awareness Campaign

To: Hon Tracey Martin, Associate Minister of Education
Cc: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

1. **Note** that it responds to your request for further information regarding the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Learning Support Awareness campaign and framework – Tamaariki.

2. **Agree** that this Briefing Note is proactively released as part of the next publication of documents.

Agree / Disagree

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

DS 1/2019
Background

Te Kōhanga Reo and Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust
1. Te Kōhanga Reo is a Māori development initiative, aimed at maintaining and strengthening Māori language and philosophies within a cultural framework inspired by Māori elders in 1982.

2. The mission of Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust (the Trust) is the protection of Te reo, tikanga me ngā āhuatanga Māori by targeting the participation of mokopuna and whānau into the Kōhanga Reo movement. The vision of the Trust is to totally immerse Kōhanga mokopuna in Te Reo, Tikanga me ngā āhuatanga Māori.

3. The Trust Board, as the governing body, has therefore had a key role in providing the support needed by Kōhanga Reo. This support has involved specific investment in mokopuna, whānau, and their cultural infrastructure of language, kinship, relationship management, whānau learning, and whānau decision-making.

Learning Support Awareness Campaign

Partnership approach to lift learning support understanding and capability
4. The Trust identified that their kaiako and whānau don’t always have the necessary capability, information or strategies when additional learning support for mokopuna is needed.

5. The Trust approached the Ministry of Education (Ministry) to share its information and resources to raise both kaiako and whānau awareness and understanding of learning support.

6. This process has resulted in a partnership approach (established through a joint project team) between the Trust and the Ministry to support the Trust in developing and delivering a Learning Support Awareness Campaign.

The Awareness Campaign
7. The Trust is leading the delivery of an Awareness Campaign (Campaign), supported by national and regional Ministry staff, through a series of regional wānanga (13 across the country).

8. This Campaign is aimed at increasing the knowledge and confidence amongst mātua, whānau and kaiako to recognise, respond to and seek support for mokopuna (where required) in relation to behaviour, speech, language and communication, and autism spectrum disorder.

9. The Trust has a strong preference to ensure that the approach is focused on how mātua, whānau and kaiako can better support their tamariki within the Kōhanga Reo context, rather than creating a referral pathway for learning support.

10. We are therefore not anticipating an immediate surge in requests for learning support -- however we may expect an increase in requests for advice.

11. The partnership approach is critical to delivering the campaign as the Ministry is providing the expertise and practice knowledge which is then made relevant for the Kōhanga environment from a Te Ao Māori perspective.
12. After the initial wānanga a follow up wānanga will be held in each area. This allows the joint project team time to reflect on what whānau and kaiako shared initially and return with further information that was requested. The joint project team can then present the material in a way that is most effective for whānau and kaiako to understand and use.

**Learning Support Brand – Tamaariki**

13. In addition to the awareness campaign the Trust has developed a new learning support brand, Tamaariki (launched in Te Teko on 8 May).

14. Tamaariki has been developed from the perspective of the kōhanga reo and is an opportunity to review and further develop resources that can be accessed online by those needing help and information about learning support strategies.

15. Tamaariki considers the ability of mokopuna, rather than their disabilities, and aims to shed light on this issue, not only as a cause but as a topic of discussion. It focuses on how, with support, their educational outcomes can be improved.

16. The Trust chose the name Tamaariki to reflect the meaning of ariki which recognises the uniqueness tamariki have, through their whakapapa and origins. It’s also about wrapping a holistic approach to their whole being so they and their whānau can support them through life to reach their full potential.

**A different way of working**

17. This partnership approach is an example of a different way of working in the early intervention space and reflects a new relationship with the Trust.

18. The campaign is strengthening regional relationships and confidence between the Ministry, the Trust, whānau and kaiako which will provide a more effective response to the needs of tamariki Māori. NGO staff and Kura Kaupapa kaiako have also attended wānanga, and this opens up opportunities for a community response which is aligned to the learning support model that is being put in place.

19. To support the Trust’s preferred approach the Ministry is ensuring that its regions are prepared for future engagements with mātua, whānau and kaiako.

20. National and regional staff are working together to understand existing regional relationships, and where required, support them to establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships. This project seeks to acknowledge good regional practice, and where required, improve existing understanding and practice – not to create any ‘new’ tools, services or products that need to be managed.

**Next Steps**

21. The next wānanga will be held in Moerewa in Te Tai Tokerau on 28 May and South Auckland on 11 June. Subject to further funding in 2019/20 we intend to continue the campaign in seven further locations across the South Island and finishing in the Lower North Island at the end of November.

**Proactive Release**

22. We recommend 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.