

## Education Report: *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa 2017* Report

<b>To:</b>	Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	16 May 2018	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1120760
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

As Minister of Education, you are legislatively required to table in Parliament the 2017 report on the performance of the compulsory schools' sector, *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa 2017*, by 30 September 2018.

This paper explains this requirement (in accordance with section 87B and 11Q, Education Act 1989), presents options for the reporting framework, and seeks your agreement on the preferred option.

### Summary

- 1 The *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa* report, also known as the Schools' Sector Report is an annual report that provides a broad overview on the progress and performance of the compulsory schools' sector.
- 2 Over the years, the Minister of Education has exercised discretion over the contents of the report, so long as it satisfies the legal requirements. While this report is tethered to 2017, it can also have a forward looking focus by signalling a shift in priorities in line with your three-year work programme.
- 3 We will provide your office with a draft copy of the 2017 report in August for review and work with them to develop the communications plan and organise the tabling of the report. The report will be released publically on the Education Counts website by 30 September 2018, when it is tabled in the house.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **Note** that, as Minister of Education, you are legislatively required to table in Parliament the *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa 2017* report by 30 September 2018. **Noted**
- c. **Note** a draft report will be submitted to your office for review in August and we will work with them to develop the communications plan and arrange the tabling of the report. **Noted**
- b. **Agree** on one reporting framework from the options:
- Option 1* – keep the 2016 format and update contents as it pertains to 2017. **Agree / Disagree**
- Option 2* – customise the 2016 format to emphasise the changes that occurred during 2017 in education and the future landscape. This is our recommended option. **Agree / Disagree**
- Option 3* – create a comprehensively new report format and content. **Agree / Disagree**
- d. **Not proactively release** this Education Report as it relates to the planning for the 2017 New Zealand Schools report, which will be finalised in August 2018 and then released publically. **Release / Not release**

  
Dr Craig Jones  
Deputy Secretary  
Evidence, Data and Knowledge

14/5/18

  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

16/6/18.

## Background

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- 1 The Minister of Education is legislatively required to prepare and present to Parliament a report on the performance of New Zealand's compulsory schools' sector by 30 September each year in accordance with sections 87B and 11Q of the Education Act 1989. This information is captured in the *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa* report.
- 2 Section 87B broadly sets out the requirements for the report. In the past, the Minister of Education has exercised discretion around content, as long as it meets legal requirements. Section 87B (2) states the report must include the following:
  - a. the performance of the schools' sector in the supply of outputs;
  - b. the management performance in the schools' sector, including the quality of the management systems and practices in the schools' sector and the management of all the assets used in the schools' sector;
  - c. the effectiveness of the schools' sector in terms of educational achievement.
- 3 In addition, section 11Q states the report must include a signed statement by the Secretary of Education which lists schools that have an enrolment scheme in place and how the Ministry plans to manage enrolment pressures on schools.

## Three options for the reporting framework

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- 4 There are three broad options for the framework and content of the 2017 report. We seek your agreement on the preferred option (Option 2).

### **Option 1: Keep the 2016 format and update the contents as it pertains to 2017**

- 5 Under this option, the 2017 report would follow the same format as the 2016 report, and we will simply apply 2017 data updates. A copy of the 2016 report is attached as Annex 1.
- 6 Whilst this is the least resource intensive option, a straight update of the 2016 report is not recommended. The inclusion of the National Standards/Ngā Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori data in the 2016 report, and their incorporation as a measure for success in other areas of education, will mean that these sections will need to be changed in the 2017 report.

### **Option 2: Customise the report to reflect the new direction in education**

- 7 Under this option, we propose the report follow a similar format to the 2016 report but implement sectional changes to better reflect the new direction in education that began in late 2017. Although this option will be more resource intensive than Option 1, it will yield a more informative product. This is our recommended option.
- 8 The main changes proposed are:
  - a. Make reporting on student well-being a focus by bringing it forward in the report and expanding the section (p. 59, 2016 report) to include deeper discussions around tools, interventions, policies, and insights from national and international studies.

- b. Re-develop the chapter on Foundation Skills to focus reporting on student progress against the learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum, and include more in-depth results from national and international studies for a comparative picture on how well New Zealand's education system is serving children and young people.
- 9 All other parts of the report relating to resourcing and fiscal management, student participation and engagement with learning, and quality teaching and education providers, will require updating but for the most part would remain the same.

### **Option 3: Present a new format with new content**

- 10 This option requires a "back to the drawing board" approach in consultation with you and your office. It is the most resource intensive option, and given the timeframe for this report, we recommend not proceeding with this option. However, it may be an appropriate option for the 2018 report following outcomes of the Education Summits and other significant actions from the current Government education work programme.

### **Risks**

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- 11 If significant changes to format and content are made to the 2017 report, there is a continuity risk and you may need to provide reasons for such deviations.

### **Next steps**

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- 12 We will develop the 2017 report over the coming months and then work with your office to develop a release and communications plan. We will provide your office a draft of the report in August for your review and sign off.

### **Proactive Release**

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- 13 We recommend that this Education Report is not released at this time. This is because the information contained in this report relates to the planning for the 2017 New Zealand Schools report, which will be finalised in August 2018 and then released publically.

### **Annexes**

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- Annex 1: 2016 New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa report

Proactively Released