Briefing Note: Teaching of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Follow-up

To: Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education
Cc: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 14 June 2019
Priority: Medium
Security Level: In Confidence
METIS No: 1194902

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Messaging seen by Communications team: No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note that this briefing provides a summary of your discussions with officials on supporting teaching and learning of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Summary

- You met with officials on 22 May 2019 to discuss 1187908 BN Supporting teaching and learning of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- This paper provides a summary of this discussion.

Pauline Cleaver
Associate Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
Background
1. On 22 May 2019 you met with officials to discuss 1187908 BN Supporting teaching and learning of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

2. The discussion emphasised the need for a set of facts that all ākonga, kaiako and teachers should have access to. These facts would act as a framework through which schools and kura build their local curriculum by adding on information relevant to their local area.

3. For example, at a national level the facts would include items such as the dates, places and how and who signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti), when and why the Waitangi Tribunal was set up and so forth. At a local level, kaiako and teachers could work with iwi, hapū and takiwā to tell their Te Kāhui Whakatau stories and other historical information of significance to ākonga.

4. The discussion also focused on the importance of Te Tiriti being taught across all year levels and we will therefore investigate how to provide more explicit alignment and clarity of teaching and learning resources.

5. This approach could be achieved by building on existing frameworks, such as Te Takanga o te Wā – Māori History Guidelines. Teachers and kaiako are familiar with this resource and they have remained popular since publication.

6. In a recent briefing to Minister Hipkins, we took a holistic approach to supporting Te Tiriti, the New Zealand Land Wars and New Zealand history more generally [METIS 1192432 refers].

7. There may be opportunities to align this work with Te Ahu o te Reo Māori by supporting the education workforce to learn about New Zealand history from the perspective of tangata whenua, while also learning te Reo Māori. Similar linkages could be made through Te Hurihanganui.

8. The Ministry will do further work on exploring the feasibility of this option.

Next Steps
9. The Ministry to engage with members of the education sector including members of iwi to discuss the framework for development of resources for teaching and learning of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Proactive Release
10. 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.