

Message from the Secretary for Education – establishment of Te Mahau within redesigned Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga | Ministry of Education

Kia ora koutou

Today I released my decisions for the establishment of Te Mahau (formerly referred to as an ESA) within a redesigned Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga | Ministry of Education.

The decisions I have taken give effect to the Government's response to the Independent Taskforce Review of Tomorrow's Schools. While the Government accepted most of the Taskforce recommendations it reached some different conclusions about organisational design. The decisions also take into account what we heard through the wider Kōrero Mātauranga, and what we learned through COVID Lockdown.

The Government's response to the Independent Taskforce included recognition that the changes would take time and be funded over several budgets.

The attached A3 describes the organisational changes at a high level. As I have previously advised, my next task is to appoint the Leadership Team. The formal establishment of Te Mahau, including a curriculum centre (named Te Poutāhu), and subsequent changes to Te Tāhuhu will take effect on 4 October this year.

The creation of Te Mahau represents a shift in how we work with and for the education sector. Te Mahau is so named because it is the porch of Te Whare o te Mātauranga. It is a place of humility of presence and manaaki. It is a place that is front-facing, accessible, visible and transparent. It is a place of conversation and community, where wāhine and tāne can stand to speak. It can be a wāhi tapu (place of formality) if required, but it is usually an informal space where people come together. Māori, English and other languages can be spoken in this space.

This signals not only how Te Mahau staff will work, but also invites you and your representatives to engage in the mahi of Te Mahau, in decisions about how our relationships will develop, how our services can evolve overtime and how we can jointly find local solutions to local issues. The Government's expectation is that our services will be responsive, connected and accessible. Our initial changes are targeted at the way Te Mahau will be structured to strengthen regional responsiveness.

Some changes are already being actioned which reflect the direction we are heading. Budget 2021 has funded a significant programme of curriculum work, including the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa; developing resources and supports for Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories; developing a new online curriculum hub to replace TKI; and continuing to implement the NCEA change programme.

There will be many opportunities for you to engage in the establishment of Te Mahau. I will begin engagement with the sector through your representative bodies, and Directors will talk with other groups at a regional level. Some of these initial changes and opportunities include:

- The "well-being" curriculum advisors funded from the 2020/21 budget have been recruited; Directors of Education are working with their teams, Te Poutāhu, and the sector on how the curriculum advisors will be best placed to support schools and early learning services.
- A further group of advisors (not designated leadership advisor or curriculum advisors) have been funded through Budget 2021/22. Directors of Education will soon be able to discuss

how these advisors will be positioned to further support and enable the work of our regions and the sector.

- There is a flexible fund of up to \$15m available nationally for Directors of Education. This fund will be used to support national and local priorities and needs, and will utilise localised processes that have been informed by the design of the URF.
- There is further funding to support the expansion of Te Kahu Toi (Intensive Wraparound Service). This expansion is being designed with the support of the Directors to provide a rapid and responsive support for up to 95 additional ākonga per year over 4 years.

While I know many of you will be excited about the opportunities to get involved and to do things differently, I also acknowledge that it will feel like there is a lot going on – and as always, there is. The organisational design, ie. Te Mahau being *the* point of connection with the sector will enable us to better understand and manage the demands on you.

What do you need to do?

You do not have to do anything. This message is to provide you with up-to-date information on the changes and the direction we are taking. Directors of Education are available to talk through any questions or receive your thoughts on how Te Mahau may work with you in the future.

Nāku noa, nā

Iona Holsted
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Mātauranga
Secretary for Education