



# Curriculum Voices Group – NZC

Terms of Reference

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## Background

*Whakamaua te pae tata kia tina – take hold of your potential so it becomes your reality.*

*We are descendants of explorers, discoverers and innovators who used their knowledge to traverse distant horizons. Our learning will be inclusive, equitable and connected so we progress and achieve advances for our people and their future journeys and encounters.*

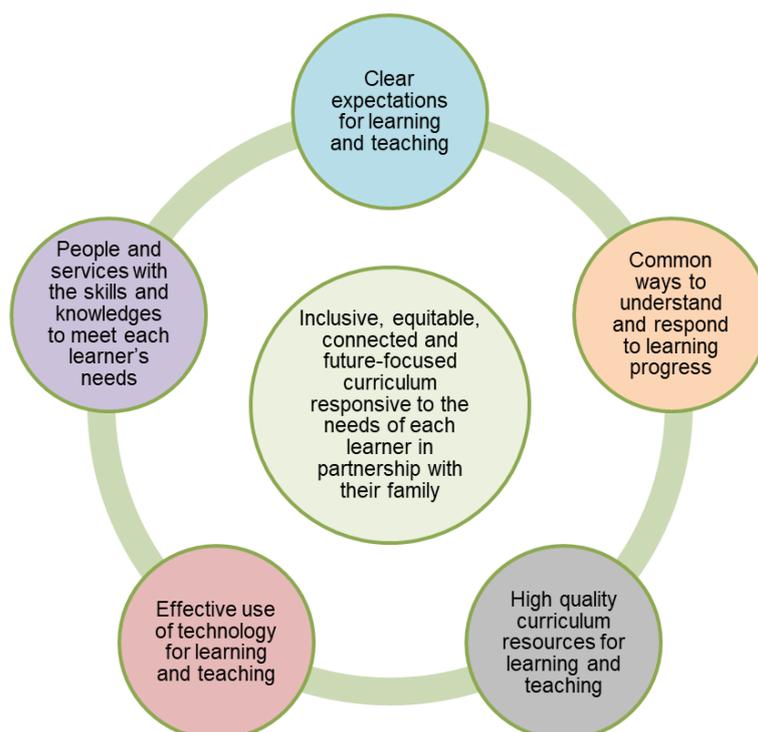
*Whaia te pae tawhiti kia tata – Explore beyond the distant horizon and draw it near.*

The Government's vision for the future of New Zealand education reflects the overwhelming aspirations of New Zealanders, as expressed in the Kōrero Mātauranga, for a more inclusive, equitable, and connected New Zealand education and learning system.

In many schools and kura across Aotearoa New Zealand, students are experiencing rich and engaging learning that supports them to take part and contribute fully as confident and competent citizens. We want this to happen everywhere, for all young people and their whānau.

In 2019, the Curriculum, Progress and Achievement Ministerial Advisory Group provided advice to the Minister of Education which provides a clear direction for the future of curriculum, teaching and learning. Strengthening our national curriculum and its delivery is a priority for achieving the education system vision and the aspirations of the National Education and Learning Priorities, Ka Hikitia, Tau Mai Te Reo, Pacific Education Action Plan and Early Learning Action Plan.

Over the last two years the Ministry of Education has been working with people from the education sector and wider communities to understand how to make improvements to the national curriculum and its delivery so that all our students progress and achieve across the curriculum. There is now a comprehensive curriculum work programme strengthening the system so that there are:



A Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG) is being established to provide expert advice to the Ministry on the direction for the curriculum work programme across early learning and schooling, in both Māori and English medium pathways. A rōpū whakaruruhau is also being established to provide advice to the Ministry on mātauranga Māori in curriculum.

Alongside this, the Ministry is establishing a coherent stakeholder engagement model to provide advice specific to work strengthening *The New Zealand Curriculum* (NZC) and its delivery. This work programme includes:

- refreshing *The New Zealand Curriculum* over the next five years, so it is bicultural, inclusive, and easier to use
- strategies to strengthen the teaching of literacy and mathematics for tamariki
- developing resources to support and notice social-emotional learning
- the provision of curriculum lead roles at the Ministry's frontline to support leaders and teachers in the use of the national curriculum and to design their marau ā-kura and local curriculum to benefit learner wellbeing
- developing a common approach to a record of learning, including a curriculum progress map
- development of an Online Curriculum Hub to replace TKI
- changes to Professional Learning and Development to support the capability required by curriculum changes
- and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.

## The NZC work programme stakeholder engagement model

### Overview

The overall purpose of the NZC work programme stakeholder engagement model is to ensure transparency and build trust between stakeholders and the Ministry of Education, as trust and collaboration will be vital to the success of the design and implementation of initiatives to strengthen *The New Zealand Curriculum* and its delivery.

### Key relationships

A range of groups with differing connections and functions will be established to accommodate the design requirements of the different initiatives within the work programme and to ensure there is genuine collaboration and co-design with a range of people.

#### These will include:

**Curriculum Voices Group – NZC [the group covered by these Terms of Reference]** – A diverse group, made up of key stakeholder representatives, including peak bodies, drawing upon a range of voices and perspectives. This group serves as the central 'touch point' for guidance and feedback on design, development and implementation products. Their feedback will inform each stage as we design, test, refine and implement the refreshed curriculum. This group serves the breadth of the NZC work programme.

**Writing Groups** – Small groups comprised of lead writers, content specialist writers and fast-testers to draft content. Initially, for the NZC Refresh a writing group for the social sciences learning area has been established. Subsequently, writing groups for other learning areas will be formed.

**Working Groups** – Small groups comprised of individuals with necessary skills and expertise to design and produce content or products. For the NZC Refresh one working group will be established initially to draft the bicultural and inclusive framework.

**Review and Testing**– These individuals and groups will test, critique and review content or products. For NZC Refresh these groups will test, critique and review the curriculum content and implementation content developed by the writing groups, after the design phase.

### Purpose of group

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will provide insight and guidance from the voices and perspectives of those individuals and groups across the education system that members represent. The group will also provide feedback on content, design, and implementation supports to ensure that the refreshed NZC, implementation supports and other related initiatives in the NZC work programme are bicultural, inclusive, and meet the needs of diverse New Zealand learners, schools and communities.

As a representative group, members will be instrumental in identifying individuals, schools and clusters of schools to participate in review and testing. It will also inform public testing, how we should test and who needs to be involved.

Focus groups may be drawn from this group from time to time for specific tasks. As required, focus groups can be established to ensure that feedback is received from a particular perspective e.g. youth perspective, teacher perspective, etc.

## Scope

The scope of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC is the work to strengthen *The New Zealand Curriculum* and its delivery.

## Functions

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC's role is subject to these Terms of Reference.

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will provide:

- feedback on content, design and implementation supports
- guidance and advice on the review and testing of content and products (may include public testing, staffroom testing, in-class testing, other targeted testing)
- a vehicle for bringing diverse voices to the process (e.g. parents, student voice, disability perspectives, rural voice).
- insights on change readiness of the sector.

There is the opportunity for members to activate their existing networks to include diverse voices and bring in specific perspectives (e.g. parents, disability perspectives, rural voice). Suggestions from within the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will be sought about how to engage with parents and whānau so that their voices are heard. Curriculum Voices Group – NZC members will be invited to work with students within their schools to gather student voice.

## Operations and management of group

### Membership

Members of the group have been selected to represent the broad range of stakeholders who have an interest in shaping *The New Zealand Curriculum* and how it is taught, including Māori, Pacific, people with disabilities, whānau, leaders, teachers, peak bodies, ITE and educational agencies and organisations

If Curriculum Voices Group – NZC members cannot attend a meeting during the term of this group, minutes of the meeting and any supporting documentation will be provided and a verbal update available if required.

If members are unable to attend meetings, they may nominate an alternative representative from within their organisation.

### Chair

The group will be chaired by the Associate Deputy Secretary, Curriculum Pathways and Progress.

### Fees

The Ministry has a budget to operate this group, including offering all Curriculum Voices Group – NZC members remuneration for attendance at hui.

Teachers and principals are able to be remunerated based on the Ministry's existing Teacher Release Day (TRD) policy and rates that apply for the schooling sector (approx. \$396 pp per day). The TRD reflects the cost to the school to release the member to participate in this important mahi.

Members who are not from school settings are able to be remunerated a professional fee based on the TRD rate (approx. \$396 pp per day). The professional fee will reflect a reasonable cost to an organisation of the member's time on this important mahi.

Travel arrangements will be made for all members.

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC and its members will not have an independent budget.

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC is planned to run for the entirety of the five-year period of work from March 2021- December 2025.

### Secretariat

The Ministry will provide the secretariat role and will ensure there is appropriate support for the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC.

Support will be provided to enable group members to lead or facilitate engagement activities within their existing networks. This may include the cost of venue booking, kai, or koha.

The Ministry will ensure regular and frequent communication between Writing and Working Groups and this group.

### Media

The Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will not make media statements about the NZC refresh work programme without the prior agreement of the Ministry of Education. If members of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC are asked to provide comment on any issue relating to the NZC refresh work programme by a third party (i.e. other than the Minister or Ministry), they will forward the question or request to the Ministry by email to [nationalcurriculum.refresh@education.govt.nz](mailto:nationalcurriculum.refresh@education.govt.nz)

### Meetings

Meetings of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will be held in Wellington. If Covid Alert levels prevent meeting in person then alternative meeting arrangements will be made via online video conferencing so that the work can be progressed.

We expect that the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will meet every 6-8 weeks in 2021.

The agenda and papers for meetings of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will be circulated to members five working days in advance of each meeting, and draft notes from the meeting will be circulated to Curriculum Voices Group – NZC members no later than five working days after each meeting.

### Conflicts of interest

Members of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will be required to disclose conflicts of interest relating to the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC and *The New Zealand Curriculum* refresh work programme.

Members of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC who have a specific, real conflict of interest in relation to an issue or item will advise the Ministry and excuse themselves from consideration of those issues or items.

If members of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC develop new, relevant conflicts of interest, whether real, potential or perceived, in the course of the *New Zealand Curriculum* refresh work programme, they will inform the Ministry's secretariat as soon as is reasonably practicable.

### Confidentiality

The work of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC is confidential, unless otherwise agreed by the Ministry. Members of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC will maintain this confidence and will not disclose information about the operations of the Curriculum Voices Group – NZC to any person without the above agreement.



We **shape** an **education** system that delivers  
**equitable** and **excellent outcomes**

He mea **tārai** e mātou te **mātauranga**  
kia **rangatira** ai, kia **mana taurite** ai ōna **huanga**