Education Report: Update on Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Ministerial Advisory Group and Reference Group

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 19 March 2019

Priority: High

Security Level: In Confidence

METIS No: 1181775

Drafter: Hannah Boast

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Key Contact: Nancy Bell

Mobile:

Messaging seen by Communications team: No

Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to seek your agreement to extend the term of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) and reappoint its Chair and members until 30 September 2019. It also seeks your agreement to extend the term of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Reference Group.

If you agree to the extension, we recommend the attached paper for the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee (APH) is lodged by 28 March for APH on 3 April 2019.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. agree to extend the term of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Ministerial Advisory Group from 2 April 2019 until 30 September 2019

Agree/Disagree

b. agree to reappoint the Chair and members of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Ministerial Advisory Group for a term starting on 2 April 2019 and ending on 30 September 2019

Agree/Disagree

c. agree to extend the term of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Reference Group from 2 April 2019 until 30 September 2019

Agree/Disagree
If you agree with recommendations a, b and c:

d. **approve** the attached APH paper for lodging by 10am on 28 March 2019, consideration by APH on 3 April 2019

   Agree / Disagree

  e. **sign and send** the attached letters, once appointments are approved

   Agree / Disagree

  f. **note** that we will liaise with your Office for the development of a press release

   Noted

  g. **agree** that this Education Report is proactively released as part of the next publication

   Agree / Disagree

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Nancy Bell  
Director, Early Learning  
Early Learning and Student Achievement

19.3.19

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Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

19.3.19
Background

1. The Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) was established on 5 April 2018 and its term currently expires on 1 April 2019. It contains the following members:
   - Professor Carmen Dalli
   - Dr Alex Gunn
   - Professor Stuart McNaughton
   - Professor Margie Hohepa
   - Dr Jodie Hunter

2. The MAG is supported by the Ministry of Education and a larger sector Reference Group, which is made up of a wider range of representatives including members from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) and the Early Childhood Education Research Policy Forum. Their term also currently expires on 1 April 2019.

3. In November 2018 the MAG presented you with a draft Strategic Plan for Early Learning (Strategic Plan) by working with the Reference Group and with support from the Ministry of Education. On 12 November 2018 Cabinet approved the release of this draft Strategic Plan for public consultation which ran from 19 November 2018 to 15 March 2019.

4. The focus of the consultation process has been on the goals and accompanying recommendations, their priority and consideration for implementation. The Ministry has conducted an online survey and held over 50 hui across the country for people to discuss and provide feedback.

5. The final Strategic Plan will be drafted by the Ministry of Education, incorporating consultation feedback. As per the Terms of Reference – Development of a Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning, the MAG and Reference Group are to be consulted on the final Strategic Plan before it is submitted to you.

Proposal

6. As the Ministry of Education prepares the high level picture of how the Education Work Programme’s initiatives fit together and complement each other, it is necessary to allow for additional time for the development of the final Strategic Plan.

7. Extending the mandate of the MAG and Reference Group until 30 September 2019 will allow time for the Ministry to engage in meaningful consultation with the MAG and the Reference Group.

8. All five members of the Ten Year Strategic Plan for Early Learning MAG have confirmed they are available to continue to 30 September 2019.

Next steps

6. If you agree to extend the terms of the MAG and Reference Group to 30 September 2019 in line with both Terms of Reference contained in in Annex 1, we recommend that the appointment paper also in Annex 1 and the CV and Organisational forms in Annex 2 are lodged with the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee by 28 March for their 3 April 2019 meeting.
Proactive Release

9. It is intended that this report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as MAG members have been confirmed. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes


Annex 2: CV and Organisational Forms

Annex 3: Draft letters of appointment