

Māori Education Ministerial Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Government has set nine targets for improved results from the public sector. The Minister of Education (Minister) and Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Mātauranga (Secretary for Education) are responsible for the delivery of **Target 7: More students at expected curriculum levels**: Eighty per cent of Year 8 students at or above the expected curriculum level for their age in reading, writing and maths by December 2030.

The Minister's education priorities

The Minister has set six education priorities to deliver a world-leading education system that sets Kiwi kids up for future success. They prioritise ambition, achievement and outcomes at the heart of the education system. The six education priorities are:

- **Clearer curriculum**: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning.
- **Better approach to literacy and numeracy**: Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics.
- **Smarter assessment and reporting**: Implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progress and achievement.
- **Improved teacher training**: Developing the workforce of the future, including leadership development pathways.
- **Stronger learning support**: Targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs.
- **Greater use of data**: Using data and evidence to drive consistent improvement in achievement.

Māori learners are a significant and growing proportion of all learners in the education system (25% of all school students in 2023, predicted to grow to 33% by 2040).

Māori education is underpinned by te reo Māori and tikanga Māori (customs). When delivered to a high standard it delivers positive benefits for all learners, particularly for Māori learners.

Purpose

The Māori Education Ministerial Advisory Group (Māori Education MAG) will provide the Minister with independent advice and guidance on all matters relating to Māori education, in English medium education and Māori medium education settings, with a focus on action to deliver on the Minister's education priorities.

Māori Education Action Plan

The Minister will lead the development and delivery of a Māori Education Action Plan (Action Plan) framed against education priorities. The Action Plan will support the Māori Education MAG's advice to be focussed on delivery of actions to lift achievement and close the education equity gap for Māori.

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Role

The Māori Education MAG's role will include:

- providing advice to the Minister to support the Minister in setting priorities and actions for Māori education – including relevant gap analysis,
- helping the Minister to implement the Māori Education Action Plan – by receiving quarterly updates from the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) and enquiring on how actions are being progressed through reporting, monitoring and continuous improvement,
- enquiring on the impact that is being made for Māori learners, and
- enquiring on the impact that is being made for Māori language in education.

The expectation is that the Māori Education MAG work together to deliver consensus-based advice wherever possible to the Minister.

The Māori Education MAG is not a:

- representative group mandated to provide advice on behalf of Māori
- decision-making group.

Scope

The Māori Education MAG will provide independent advice and guidance on all matters relating to Māori education, in English medium education and Māori medium education settings, with a focus on action to deliver on the Minister's education priorities.

Out of scope – Kaupapa Māori education

Out of scope for the Māori Education MAG is providing any advice on Kaupapa Māori education. The Minister is committed to working with Te Matakahuki to identify shared priorities and actions for kaupapa Māori education.

Membership

The Minister will ensure the required expertise is represented on the Māori Education MAG by:

- appointing up to seven members, including the Chair, to the Māori Education
- reviewing membership as required.

Chair

The Minister will appoint a Chair with the appropriate skills to manage and reflect the interests of the Advisory Group. The Chair may also engage directly with the Minister on behalf of the Māori Education MAG.

Skills, knowledge and experience

The Māori Education MAG will consist of individuals who have the appropriate range of skills, knowledge, and experience to carry out their functions.

Collectively the Māori Education MAG will benefit from having skills and knowledge which include:

- proven experience in achieving excellent educational outcomes for Māori learners and for Māori language in education,

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- curriculum leadership as well as the design and delivery of Māori education in English medium settings and Māori medium settings in areas that align with my six education priorities,
- expertise in mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and tikanga Māori,
- experience with whānau Māori engagement in education to lift educational achievement for Māori learners and their whānau, and
- machinery of government and governance expertise.

Terms of appointment

Māori Education MAG members will be appointed in two stages. Stage 1 appointed members, including the Chair, will be appointed for a term of two years from date of appointment. Members appointed thereafter will have the same term end date as Stage 1 appointees.

The Minister will formally wind up the Māori Education MAG at the conclusion of their appointment term unless the Minister decides otherwise.

Members may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Minister.

Conflicts of interest

Members will disclose all actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest as they relate and/or develop to these Terms of Reference, to the Chair, the Minister and the Ministry.

Resignation and removal

Members can resign from the Māori Education MAG by notifying the Chair in writing of their intention to resign. The effective date of resignation will be after the Minister and the Māori Education MAG have both been notified.

Members may be recommended for removal by the Chair to the Minister. It is expected that the Chair take reasonable steps to mediate any potential disputes before removal of a member is considered. Removal will be by notice in writing stating the effective end-date. Terms include but are not limited to inability to perform the duties of a member, neglect of duty or misconduct compromising the Māori Education MAG's ability to provide effective and independent advice and guidance to the Minister.

Administration

Meetings

The Chair will lead Māori Education MAG meetings unless otherwise directed or agreed by the Minister.

Meetings will be held six times in the first year and aim to be held quarterly thereafter. Meetings may be held in-person and remotely or in a hybrid format.

No delegations or nominees are to attend meetings of the Māori Education MAG in the absence of the appointed member without prior approval of the Chair.

Quorum

Meeting quorum is four of seven members, including the Chair.

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Secretariat

The Ministry will provide secretariat services to the Māori Education MAG. The secretariat will report to the Chair of the Māori Education MAG and:

- assist the Chair to prepare meeting agendas;
- circulate meeting packs (agenda, minutes and any papers required);
- create or commission papers for meetings as required;
- process all financial tasks, including booking travel, accommodation, catering and venues as required and invoice processing.

The agenda and papers for meetings of the Māori Education MAG will be circulated to members four working days in advance of each meeting.

Resources

The Māori Education MAG will have access to all advice, information, data, research and analysis developed by the Ministry for topics under discussion. This will include material still under development, and that does not reflect either Ministry or Government policy and is not to be shared outside of the Māori Education MAG.

Costs

The Ministry will cover costs directly associated with meetings of the Māori Education MAG, including member fees and actual and reasonable travel costs, including meals and accommodation.

Member Fees

Fees for members of the Māori Education MAG have been assessed in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework, according to Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2. The Group has been classified as a Group 4, Level 2 body.

Based on this, the Chair of the Māori Education MAG will receive a daily fee of \$885. Eligible members of the Māori Education MAG will receive a daily fee of \$570.

In line with the Fees Framework, members of the Māori Education MAG who are currently employed by a Board of Trustees, or by any government agency, organisation, or body, or any local authority as defined under section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2005, must not receive both their ordinary pay and their fees for acting on the Māori Education MAG if they discharge Māori Education MAG duties during usual working hours. Where this applies, in the case of current teachers and teaching principals, the member will receive their ordinary salary only, and in addition, funding for teacher release will be paid to their school. In the case of current principals, the member will receive their ordinary salary only.

Confidentiality and Official Information

Advice and recommendations provided by members of the Māori Education MAG will be treated in confidence. Members will not disclose any confidential information or material provided to the Māori Education MAG by officials in perpetuity unless material is released by agreement with the Minister. The Official Information Act 1982 will apply to the activities of the Māori Education MAG.

Public engagement

Any media statements made from the Māori Education MAG will be made by the Chair with the approval of the Minister.