



Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO) Education Evaluation Centre work programme, August 2023

Date	1 September 2023
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M23-45
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
Associate Minister of Education	<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note that Te Ihuwaka has a work programme of evidence generation and mobilisation. b) Note that the next publication will be on good practice in teaching mathematics in Years One to Three, in November/December 2023. c) Agree to forward this briefing to the Minister of Education, Hon Jan Tinetti and the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis. d) Note that this briefing is recommended for proactive release. 	

 Attachments:

 Comments:

Minister's Office to complete	
Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referred to:	
Date signed by Minister:	



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Our Ref: M23-45

1 September 2023

Hon Jo Luxton
Associate Minister of Education

ERO's Education Evaluation Centre work programme August 2023

Purpose

1. This briefing sets out the current work programme for ERO's Education Evaluation Centre (Te Ihuwaka). It includes information on the portfolio of evidence we are generating, and how we are working to increase the impact of our evidence on practice.

Background

2. Te Ihuwaka has a wide-ranging work programme to generate evidence and insights into education in four areas:
 - a. Understanding and report on education system performance (different aspects of education and for different groups of learners).
 - b. Evaluating initiatives to build our understanding of what works.
 - c. Promoting good practice to increase use of evidence in practice.
 - d. Identifying emerging challenges and opportunities.
3. Across our work programme we have developed a wide range of approaches and tools to:
 - a. Generate high quality insights that draw on a wide range of evidence, and
 - b. Mobilise evidence and insights so they inform schools' and early learning services' practice.

Evidence generation

4. Since its creation in 2020, Te Ihuwaka has provided new evidence and insights on a wide range of topics, including on the quality of education for disabled learners, the key drivers of attendance, and the impacts of Covid-19 on schools and students. The most recent publications have included reports in June and July on:
 - a. Alternative Education – the reforms needed to ensure it delivers a quality education.
 - b. Long Covid – the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 on schools and students.
 - c. New Principals – how we can better set up new principals to thrive.

5. Our work programme reflects the educational priorities of the Government and where we can have the greatest impact through providing new insights and evidence. We partner with a wide range of organisations to provide the most robust insights.
6. We currently have an ambitious work programme underway, focused on the key education areas of:
 - a. Numeracy and literacy.
 - b. Te Mātaiaho (the Curriculum Refresh).
 - c. Equity.
 - d. Learner Wellbeing.
 - e. Workforce capability.

The projects underway, or starting shortly, are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Te Ihuwaka’s Work Programme

Project	Purpose	Current state	Publication
Numeracy and literacy			
Good practice in teaching mathematics in early primary	Supporting the implementation of the Common Practice Model by identifying what good practice looks like in teaching mathematics in the early years of schooling (years 1-3).	Drafting	Nov/Dec 2023
Oral literacy in the early years	Understanding how well children’s oral language is developing (including the impact of Covid-19) and the most effective practices in supporting oral language development.	Starts October 2023	March/April 2024
Te Mātaiaho			
Evaluation of Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and Te Ao Tangata Social Sciences (in partnership with MoE)	Insights from the implementation of Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and the broader Te Ao Tangata Social Sciences learning areas, to inform future implementation of Te Mātaiaho.	In the field	April/May 2024
Equity			
De-streaming	Identifying what good mixed ability teaching looks like in practice, and what schools who want to de-stream can do.	In the field	February/March 2024
Wellbeing			
Managing Challenging Behaviours	Understanding the impact of challenging behaviours in classrooms and sharing the evidence on the most effective practices in managing challenging behaviours.	In the field	March/April 2024

Evaluation of Counselling in Primary Schools	Evaluating the impact of the counselling for primary students programme on students' mental health and learning.	Starting January 2024	June/July 2024
Workforce capability			
New teachers (in partnership with the Teaching Council)	Providing insights into how well-prepared new teachers are, and the support they need when they start teaching.	In the field	April 2024

7. Across all areas, the tools we use give us an increased ability to track how the quality of education changes over time and identify emerging challenges.

Evidence mobilisation

8. We are increasing our focus on evidence mobilisation to increase the impact our evidence has on practice. We are working with sector bodies, and three current areas of focus are:
- Drawing on international best practice: We are a member of the global Evidence for Education Network and the New Zealand partner of the Education Endowment Foundation (a foundation which draws together the most robust international evidence). We have a new programme of work to take the international evidence on effective education practice, complement it with New Zealand evidence, and contextualise it for New Zealand schools and early learning services.
 - ERO's work in schools and services: Through our operating models we are increasing ERO's Evaluation Partners' and Review Officers' ability to use insights to provide evidence-based guidance to leaders, teachers and Kaiako.
 - Diversifying our range of products: For all our work we offer multiple avenues for users to engage, for example, through easy-to-use guides and fact sheets, webinars, and forums. We are now looking to refine and expand this range, based on what users tell us works best for them.

Next steps

9. We recommend that you forward this briefing to the Minister of Education, Hon Jan Tinetti and the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis.
10. We recommend that this briefing is proactively released.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that you:
- Note** that Te Ihuwaka has a work programme of evidence generation and mobilisation.
 - Note** that the next publication will be on good practice in teaching mathematics in Years One to Three, in November/December 2023.

Noted

Noted

c) **Agree** to forward this briefing to the Minister of Education, Hon Jan Tinetti and the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Kelvin Davis.

Agreed / Disagreed

d) **Note** that this briefing is recommended for proactive release.

Noted

Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED / APPROVED

Jo Luxton
Associate Minister of Education

4 / 9 / 23.