

Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): ERO forum for Review and Improvement Services in Hamilton

Date	18 December 2020
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M20-55
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
-----------	---------------	----------

**Associate
Minister of
Education**

It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** ERO's intention to hold a Review and Improvement Services national forum in Hamilton between 2 and 5 February 2021.
- b) **note** the national forum includes ERO's new methodologies in schools and early learning as an efficient way of sharing learnings, harnessing discussions and ensuring a consistent and inclusive approach to implementation of the respective models.
- c) **note** that this briefing is recommended for proactive release.



Attachments:

***Education Review Office (ERO):
ERO forum for Review and
Improvement Services in Hamilton***



Comments:

Minister's Office to complete

Noted

Seen

Approved

Referred to:

Date signed by Minister:

Our Ref: M20-55

18 December 2020

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

ERO FORUM FOR REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES IN HAMILTON

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to keep you informed and updated on activities associated with the Review and Improvement Services national forum in Hamilton between the 2nd and 5th February 2021.
2. This Briefing provides an overview of the objectives and outcomes we intend to deliver.
3. This note also provides the key themes of the programme.

Background

4. ERO's geographically dispersed nature brings with it the challenge of delivering consistently across a national workforce. We have previously briefed you on the significant change programme underway.

Reference - M20-37 Proposed New Operating Model for School Reviews within ERO.

Reference - M20-39 Update on ERO's development of approaches to external evaluation in early childhood services.

5. Underpinning the success of the approaches in both early learning and schools is the capability of our people.
6. We have a strong commitment to building the skills of our workforce through a programme of professional development. We want to ensure that the delivery of ERO's new methodologies for early learning and schools are consistently implemented and lead to high quality evaluations. As such we propose to hold a forum for all review staff in the first week of February 2021.

Expected outcomes

7. The intention of this forum is to ensure that all review officers have:
 - a) A common understanding of our work programmes and approaches.
 - b) An increased understanding of specific sector knowledge to be well equipped to undertake evaluation confidently in the respective sectors.
 - c) An understanding of ERO's role in the system.
 - d) The capabilities to implement the schools Operating Model and the Quality Framework for Early Learning. We are in an exciting position as we implement new ways of working in both schools and early learning services.
 - e) An understanding of the Māori concepts of mahi tahi, whakawhanaungatanga and Poutokomanawa underpin our work. We are committed to weaving in our Māori Strategy - He Taura Here Tangata, ERO's Pacific Strategy and the Learning Support Action Plan as we build and implement the model.
8. A consolidated professional learning and collaborative approach contributes to ERO's strategic intent. Balancing the efficient and effective use of time and resources ensures that we can roll out the wider models in the expected timeframe and minimise risks.

National forum to deliver the professional learning and wider insights associated with implementing the school and early learning approaches to reviews

9. The national forum includes ERO's new methodologies in schools and early learning as an efficient way of sharing learnings, harnessing discussions, and ensuring a consistent and inclusive approach to implementation.
10. The alternative of running several individual regional forums was explored. The value of bringing everyone together in one place is more effective and enables staff to collaborate and develop shared understandings and expectations about evaluation going forward.
11. A national forum minimises risk to ERO's reputation and credibility on several levels: delivering consistent messaging, timely sharing, and building capability across our evaluation partners, review officers and respective managers. It is the most efficient use of expenditure, time, and resources to deliver on the scale required.
12. It is more appropriate for ERO staff and sector experts who are facilitating and providing professional learning to be called in at once at a national event, rather than multiple times to deliver the same information in each of the regions. This approach is likely to minimise disruptions to ERO's work programmes.
13. Consistent messaging delivered at the same time will support a single ERO approach in our evaluative practice. A significant risk of not completing this work in all regions prior to wider implementation has led us to recognise the need for a single national event focussed on professional learning.

14. It is estimated that the forum will cost \$200K in total. This funding has been provisional within EROs baseline.

Forum programme

15. You, as Minister, has been invited and accepted the invitation to attend.

16. Invited guest speakers are professional experts (both internal and external) who represent a range of stakeholder groups from the sector.

17. Presentations will be delivered preferably in person at the venue, or by Zoom.

18. The keynote presentation by Pamela Macklin who is a Melbourne expert on school improvement from Zbar Consulting will be recorded for future reference and use.

Logistics and planning considerations

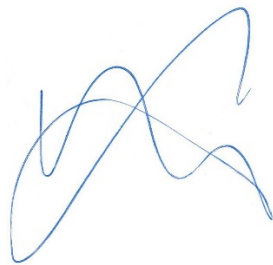
19. When planning the national forum, careful consideration has been given to fiscal and business requirements to ensure that the outcomes can be delivered within existing budgets, organisational and government expectations. When identifying the preferred venue, travel and accommodation, several factors have been considered.

20. ERO's last national forum, was held in 2017.

Recommendations

21. It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** ERO's intention to hold a Review and Improvement Services national forum in Hamilton between 2 and 5 February 2021 **noted**
- b) **note** the national forum includes ERO's new methodologies in schools and early learning as an efficient way of sharing learnings, harnessing discussions and ensuring a consistent and inclusive approach to implementation of the respective models **noted**
- c) **note** that this briefing is recommended for proactive release **noted**



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED / APPROVED



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

16 / 01 / 2021