



# Briefing report

## Education Review Office (ERO): Responding to Covid-19: Evaluation of Targeted Programmes for Auckland NCEA Students

Date	5 August 2021
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M21-78
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
<b>Associate Minister of Education</b>	<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <p>a) <b>Note</b> that ERO intends to publish the attached report Responding to Covid: Programmes for Auckland NCEA Students on its website on Thursday 19 August.</p> <p>b) <b>Note</b> that ERO intends to hold forums in Auckland and Wellington to share the findings.</p> <p>c) <b>Agree</b> to forward this briefing and the attached summary and report to the Minister for Covid-19 Response Hon Chris Hipkins, and the Associate Ministers of Education (Hon Kelvin Davis and Hon Aupito William Sio).</p> <p>d) <b>Note</b> this briefing is recommended for proactive release after the publication of the report.</p>	



### Attachments:

***Education Review Office (ERO):  
Responding to Covid-19:  
Evaluation of Targeted  
Programmes for Auckland NCEA  
Students***



### Comments:

### Minister's Office to complete

Noted

Seen

Approved

Referred to:

Date signed by Minister:



# EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE

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Our Ref: M21-78

5 August 2021

**Hon Jan Tinetti**  
**Associate Minister of Education**

### **Responding to Covid-19: Evaluation of Targeted Programmes for Auckland NCEA Students**

#### **Purpose**

1. ERO has completed an evaluation of the targeted programmes put in place for NCEA students in Auckland in response to the Covid-19 lockdowns at the end of 2020. This briefing sets out the findings of the evaluation and ERO's plans for publication. The full report and summary are attached as Appendix A.

#### **Background**

2. Covid -19 disrupted Auckland NCEA students' learning in 2020 through lockdowns and school closures. Te Kura o te Aho Pounamu (formerly known as The Correspondence School) was funded to implement three programmes to support NCEA students in Auckland. The three programmes were:
  - Te Kura 400: for disengaged students and students at risk of disengaging from education.
  - Dual Tuition: for students still enrolled at school but at risk of disengaging or who need additional support in-school.
  - Summer School: to support students who needed to achieve up to 10 additional credits to gain NCEA accreditation or University Entrance.
3. ERO undertook an evaluation of the three programmes to learn how effective the programmes were and to inform future responses to lockdowns and other disruptions (for example, natural disasters). We asked three questions.
  - Who did the programmes reach?
  - What was their impact on student wellbeing, engagement, and attainment?
  - What are the lessons for future responses?

#### **Impact of the programmes**

4. Each of the Te Kura programmes had different aims and target students. ERO looked at each programme individually to determine what impact they had on students.

***For the Te Kura 400 (TK400) programme:***

5. *The programme was successful in reaching at-risk students.*
  - 193 students enrolled in the TK400 programme.
  - Nearly three-quarters of students who enrolled in TK400 identified as Māori (49 percent) or Pacific (32 percent).
  - Nearly half of the students in the TK400 programme were from the 20 percent most deprived communities in New Zealand.
6. *The programme supported wellbeing.*
  - Students' wellbeing was high, and they reported being well supported.
  - Parents and whānau told us that the TK400 programme was having a positive effect on their child's wellbeing.
  - Te Kura staff told us that they observed an increase in students' confidence in learning as they progressed in the programme.
7. *The programme was highly successful at engaging students.*
  - Three-quarters of students returned to school or decided to continue their education with Te Kura.
  - One-in-ten students enrolled in a tertiary institution.
  - Ten percent moved into employment.

***For the Targeted Dual Tuition programme:***

8. *The Targeted Dual Tuition programme reached very few students.*
  - Only 44 students enrolled in the Targeted Dual Tuition programme.
  - Over half of students who took part identified as Pacific and just under a quarter identified as Māori.
  - The small numbers meant we cannot judge the programme's impact on wellbeing or attainment.

***For the Summer School programme:***

9. *The programme reached a range of students.*
  - 695 Auckland students enrolled in Summer School.
  - They enrolled earlier than in previous years.
  - Two thirds of students were New Zealand European, 20 percent Pacific and 12 percent Māori.
10. *The programme likely supported student wellbeing.*
  - Earlier enrolment this year suggests that students may have dealt with the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 by making sure they could access additional support as a back-up plan. This may have reduced anxiety.
11. *The programme supported attainment.*
  - More than 90 percent of standards submitted by students in Summer School received a result of achieved or higher.

- Most students were successful in obtaining University Entrance.

### Lessons for responding to future disruptions

12. One of the most important drivers of this evaluation was to inform future responses to disruptions for NCEA students. Based on the findings of this evaluation ERO recommends that the following actions could be taken **to prepare for future disruptions** for NCEA students.
- Maintain targeted programmes which can be quickly scaled up when needed.
  - Establish relationships now with schools who may need additional support following a crisis or have students who may need the support.
13. In **response to future disruptions** for NCEA students ERO recommends the following actions.
- Put in place (or scale up) targeted programmes for learners who are at risk or who have disengaged from school.
  - Make sure there are back-up options, like summer school.
  - Make sure schools can support students in school, as well as providing options for students to be supported outside their school.
  - Only deploy programmes that require schools to partner with external providers when the benefits to the school and its students are clear.

### Publication

14. The findings of this evaluation can inform whānau, school leaders, Te Kura and the Ministry of Education in the event of a future lockdown. ERO intends to publish the report and attached summary on Thursday 19 August 2021. It will share the findings with these key groups through:
- An ERO media release on the morning of publication (Appendix B).
  - Publication of the report on the ERO website.
  - A research forum in Auckland for Ministry of Education staff, Te Kura staff, and interested secondary school leaders.
  - A research forum hosted by the Ministry of Education in Wellington for interested Ministry staff.

### Recommendations

15. It is recommended that you:
- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| a) <b>Note</b> that ERO intends to publish the attached report <i>Responding to Covid: Programmes for Auckland NCEA Students</i> on its website on Thursday 19 August.  | <b>Noted</b>          |
| b) <b>Note</b> that ERO intends to hold forums in Auckland and Wellington to share the findings.  | <b>Noted</b>          |
| c) <b>Agree</b> to forward this briefing and the attached summary and report to the Minister for Covid-19 Response Hon Chris Hipkins, and the Associate Ministers of Education (Hon Kelvin Davis and Hon Aupito William Sio). | <b>Agree/Disagree</b> |

d) **Note** this briefing is recommended for proactive release after the publication of the report.

**Noted**



Nicholas Pole  
**Chief Executive**

NOTED/APPROVED



Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

08 / 08 / 2021