



Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): Evaluation of the COVID-19 response package for Auckland students

Date	27 May 2021
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M21-49
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 the attached evaluation findings.	
	b) Note that ERO will discuss the evaluation findings with you at the next agency meeting on 1 June 2021.	
	c) Note that this briefing is recommended for proactive release, subject to reviewing against the Official Information Act, at the time of the publication of the final report.	



Attachments:

***Education Review Office (ERO):
Evaluation of the COVID-19
response package for Auckland
students***



Comments:

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



Our Ref: M21-49

27 May 2021

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

Evaluation of the COVID-19 response package for Auckland students

Purpose

1. This aide memoire is to inform you about the findings from ERO's evaluation of the COVID-19 response package for Auckland students.

Background

2. Following the two Covid-19 lockdowns in Auckland in 2019, students in Auckland were reported having an increased risk of disengaging from school and losing NCEA credits due to lost teaching and learning opportunities. These lost opportunities could impact on a student's ability to transition into further education or employment because they did not achieve the necessary NCEA and University Entrance accreditations.
3. To reduce the risk, Cabinet in September 2019 (METIS:1239965) approved funding of \$1.9 to \$2.7M to expand existing Te Kura services to Auckland NCEA students to enhance learning opportunities and re-engagement with learning by:
 - Providing up to 400 extra places for disengaged students and students at risk of disengagement to access the Te Kura Big Picture Programme. The programme is a wrap-around service called Te Kura 400.
 - Extending the Te Kura Dual Enrolment offering for students severely disrupted but still enrolled or at risk of disengaging in school to receive additional support from Te Kura teachers and specialist providers (Maori and Pacific).
 - Providing additional Te Kura Summer School places to support students to gain up to 10 additional credits to gain NCEA accreditation or University Entrance.
4. Additional support was provided by government to Auckland students, alongside the Te Kura-led programmes, which included:
 - Extra NCEA credit recognition (for Auckland students this meant 1 additional credit for every 4 credits attained, up to 16 for Level 1 and up to 12 for Level 2 & 3).
 - Lower requirements for UE and certificate endorsements.
 - The establishment of an urgent response fund of \$14.5 million dollars for the Auckland region. Funding was for additional staff, to help provide wrap-around support for students, and offering 'catch-up' tuition during the year and during the summer break.

5. ERO was tasked in the Cabinet package to provide an 'impact' evaluation focussing on the 'benefits of (the) approach and to inform future programme design decisions' (METIS: 1239965, para 24). ERO has been working with the Ministry of Education and Te Kura as part of the evaluation work.
6. The attached document provides the key findings from the evaluation project.
7. We will discuss the findings from the evaluation with you at the agency meeting on 1 June 2021.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Note** the attached evaluation findings.
- b) **Note** that ERO will discuss the evaluation findings with you at the next agency meeting on 1 June 2021.
- c) **Note** that this briefing is recommended for proactive release, subject to reviewing against the Official Information Act, at the time of the publication of the final report.

Noted

Noted

Noted



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED



Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

29/05/2021