



# Briefing report

## Education Review Office (ERO): Education Evaluation Centre Work Programme: Possible New Projects

Date	11 May 2023
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M23-20
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
<b>Minister of Education</b>	<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Note</b> ERO’s Education Evaluation Centre’s planned research and evaluation work programme.</li> <li>b) <b>Agree</b> to discuss the work programme with Officials.</li> <li>c) <b>Agree</b> to forward this paper to the Associate Minister of Education and the Education Under-Secretary.</li> <li>d) <b>Note</b> the planned publication timing.</li> <li>e) <b>Note</b> that this briefing is recommended for proactive release.</li> </ul>	

 Attachments:

**Education Review Office (ERO):  
Education Evaluation Centre Work  
Programme: Possible New Projects**

 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: M23-20

11 May 2023

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

**ERO Education Evaluation Centre Work Programme: Possible New Projects**

**Purpose**

1. This briefing updates you on ERO's planned national research and evaluation work programme and publications (in English-Medium) for 2023, and seeks your views on possible new projects.

**Background**

2. ERO's research and evaluation is focused on providing insights that change teaching practice, ensure system settings are right, and raise education outcomes.
3. ERO has strengthened its evaluation and research programme through the creation of Te Ihuwaka | Education Evaluation Centre and Te Pou Mataaho | Evaluation and Research Māori. Across these areas there is a multi-year, multi-method evaluation and research programme.
4. This briefing sets out the existing work programme of Te Ihuwaka and possible new projects. A briefing on the work programme of Te Pou Mataaho will follow.

**Existing work programme**

5. We set our work programme to align with the Government's Education Work Programme, meet the needs of teachers and leaders, and focus on the areas where we can make the biggest difference.
6. The Te Ihuwaka | Education Evaluation Centre work programme aims to provide insights into education through:
  - i. Understanding the system performance – on different aspects and for different groups of learners.
  - ii. Evaluating initiatives to build our understanding of what works.
  - iii. Promoting good practice to increase the use of evidence in practice.
7. Recent publications have included reports on education for learners from ethnic communities, best practice in working with Teacher Aides, and two in depth reports on

the drivers of attendance. We have an ambitious work programme already underway for 2023 under five workstreams:

- i. Education system performance
- ii. Priority groups
- iii. Key aspects of education
- iv. Evaluating initiatives
- v. Shining a light on good practice

8. Current projects underway are set out in the table below.

Project	Purpose	Publication
<b>Education system performance</b>		
Long Covid	To understand how students, teachers, and principals are faring as we emerge from the pandemic (last the of <i>Learning in a Covid-19 World</i> series).	June 2023
<b>Priority groups</b>		
Alternative education	To understand how good provision for learners in alternative education is, and what we can do to strengthen it.	July 2023
<b>Key aspects of education</b>		
Pathways and support for new principals	To understand how different pathways and support set up new principals to succeed and what we can do to strengthen this.	July 2023
<b>Evaluating initiatives</b>		
Counselling for primary school students	To evaluate the counselling for primary school students initiative and learn what works (both implementation and outcomes).	Interim report June 2023 Final report May 2024
<b>Shining a light on good practice</b>		
Starting strong in numeracy	To provide a good practice guide for teaching numeracy skills in the first years of primary school, supporting the Common Practice Model with practical examples of teaching in action.	October 2023

### Work starting shortly

9. We are also working in partnership with the Ministry of Education on two projects that will start shortly.

Project	Purpose	Publication
<b>Education system performance</b>		
Early learning insights	Bringing together Ministry of Education and ERO data and intelligence to provide insights into trends in ECE (as part of monitoring ELAP impacts).	March 2024
<b>Key aspects of education</b>		
Evaluating the curriculum refresh	A multi-year programme to understand the implementation of the curriculum refresh, learn real-time lessons to inform the implementation, and understand the impact it achieves.	Multi-year

## Possible new projects

10. In identifying priorities for the work programme going forward, we have drawn on the perspectives of other education agencies, key sector bodies, trends emerging in data and evidence, and on our regional and national intelligence about what is happening on the ground. We have identified the following possible projects, in the table below.

Project	Details
<b>Education system performance</b>	
Skills for the future	Responding to increasing discussion internationally about global competencies by looking at what the global competencies are that our learners will need to thrive in the future (e.g., media literacy, global citizenship, multi-lingualism). How well are we preparing learners for this future?
<b>Priority groups</b>	
The lost children	Building on our work on attendance, alternative education, and Te Kura - looking at who the children not in school are, what education they are accessing, how they end up out of education, and what we can do to reconnect them with education.
Manging challenging behaviour	Responding to increased concerns about behaviour after Covid-19, how schools manage challenging behaviours and what practices are most effective - including the impact of stand-downs and exclusions, and what the evidence shows are more effective practices.
Learners' mental health	Building on our work on counselling in primary schools looking at what the learners' mental health issues in school are and what the most effective practices and programmes schools can put in place are.
<b>Key aspects of education</b>	
Think forward	Following changes to careers advice, how well does careers advice and subject selection support learners to find the education pathways they need to achieve the careers they want? What practices work well? What could be improved?
Skills that work	Building on looking at subject selection, how strong are our vocational pathways for learners in schools? Are they accessible and coordinated, and do they provide skills that enable learners to succeed in work?
Our new teachers	Building on our work on new principals, how well are new teachers prepared and supported to succeed in the first years of teaching? How do they progress?
Use of AI in education	This fast-moving area is a focus of many countries - what are the emerging opportunities and risks that AI poses for education and what are emerging best practices?
<b>Good practice</b>	
To increase impact we will be investing more in our workstream of <b>Putting Evidence into Practice</b> . This workstream develops good practice guides to bring together international and domestic research, and captures local practice examples of what this looks like in New Zealand schools/services in 2023.	
Improving early language and literacy skills	Looking in ECE, how can we improve early language and literacy skills? This responds to concerns about the impact of Covid-19 disruptions on oral language development.
After streaming	What are evidence-based approaches for supporting students that are achieving significantly lower than their peers? How have teachers and schools implemented these approaches?

## Increasing impact

11. We continue to trial new ways to increase the impact of our findings through how we disseminate evidence to teachers and leaders in schools and services. This includes new digital methods, use of social media, tailored forums and webinars, and producing new ranges of more accessible products. We have had increasing uptake, engagement, and positive feedback from the sector in respect of these initiatives.
12. As we take this work forward, we will continue to partner with other education agencies, experts, and researchers to ensure that all our research is complementary and draws on other agencies' and jurisdictions' data and expertise. In particular we are:
  - i. Joining the international Evidence in Education Network that the UK's Education Endowment Fund runs. This will provide us with access to the emerging thinking on effective practices and expertise on mobilising evidence.
  - ii. Working closely with the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) to share methods, expertise, and link up on related projects.

## Upcoming publications

13. We have four planned publications before mid-July 2023. We will confirm publication dates with your office.

Month	Publication
June	Long Covid – the Impact of Covid-19 on Schools
Mid-June	Counselling for Primary School Students: Lessons So Far
Late June	Alternative Education
Early July	Pathways and Support for New Principals

## Recommendations

14. It is recommended that you:
  - a) **Note** ERO's Education Evaluation Centre's planned research and evaluation work programme. **Noted**
  - b) **Agree** to discuss the work programme with Officials. **Agreed/Disagreed**
  - c) **Agree** to forward this paper to the Associate Minister of Education and the Education Under-Secretary. **Agreed/Disagreed**
  - d) **Note** the planned publication timing. **Noted**
  - e) **Note** that this briefing is recommended for proactive release. **Noted**

Nicholas Pole  
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED

Hon Jan Tinetti  
Minister of Education  
13 / 05 / 2023