

## RAPID RESPONSE

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### Request

In regards to the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) you have asked what impact the non-smoothing of the \$144.222m Wave 2 COVID-19 and the Cost Pressure \$19.013m bid will have on funding for teacher aides in 2020/21 and how this has led to a \$31.017m ORS response fund.

### Response

#### Background

- The request refers to two different funding bids: a Wave 2 COVID-19 response bid of \$144.222m which is for four years, and an ORS cost pressure bid of \$19.013m, which is only for the current year (2020/21).
- This response:
  - i) provides you with options for the current year fixed-term funding for teacher aides and
  - ii) shows the additional average hours per student that the new ongoing funding will provide (Wave 2 COVID-19).
- The Wave 2 COVID-19 bid did not seek funding for the existing ORS teacher aide cost pressure.
- We then sought additional funding to address the cost pressure, but the funding decision (\$19.013m) delivers only the first year (2020/21) of what was intended to be ongoing funding, with no provision for subsequent years.
- s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- This has left \$31.017m which can only be spent in the 2020/21 year. See table 1 below.

**Table 1 – New ORS time limited funding, Budget 2020**

Budget bid	Total funding \$m	Year 1 funding \$m
Wave 2 (Cabinet decision 11 May) ORS bid, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 extra hours ongoing s 9(2)(f)(iv)</li></ul>	144.222	16.417
Cost Pressure bid (Cabinet decision 6 July) ORS cost pressure TA increase (incl. \$4.413m TAPEC)	19.013	14.600
<b>Total time limited funding in 2020/21</b>		<b>31.017</b>

## Options

- We have developed two options for spending the remaining funding of \$31.017m, consistent with the intent that the funding is for ORS teacher aide hours. Both of these options are based on 30 employed hours per week for 40 weeks and are fully inclusive of the new TAPEC rates.
- The options allocate the funding over two different periods: 12 months or 18 months.
- We have discounted options that increase the average hours available for all ORS students over these time periods, because this would create an expectation of increased hours in outyears, which Budget 20 has not enabled.
- Instead, under both of these options we would establish a process to allocate the teacher aide funding to schools for students based on needs related to their attendance, engagement and wellbeing and to support their learning post the impact of COVID. For example, we could establish an ORS response fund to sit alongside the COVID-19 Urgent Response Fund for early learning services and schools and kura, and the proposed Enhanced Wellbeing Fund for at risk learners (Metis 1235061 refers). We would strongly message the temporary nature of this funding to parents and schools.
- The 12-month option below is currently approved. Option 2 would need to be approved by Treasury as a fiscally-neutral adjustment (FNA) to move a portion of the \$19.013m to the next financial year (2021/22) in the October Baseline Update.  
s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- The options are summarised in Table 2 below.

### **Option 1: Establish 12 month response fund – to June 2021**

- The time-limited funding could be used as an ORS response fund in the current financial year. It would be clearly identified as time limited funding to support the attendance, engagement and wellbeing of ORS students post-COVID.
- The funding would enable schools to employ up to an additional 1,025 FTE teacher aides for one year.
- This would not be used to increase the average hours available for all ORS students. It would be targeted to students needing additional support in the post COVID environment and would add 20.6% more ORS teacher aide hours into the system in 2020/21. Examples might include the need for additional hours of support to re-establish disrupted routines or respond to heightened anxiety and/or more severe behaviour after being away from the school environment for a lengthy period (eg not having returned until level 1).

### **Option 2: Establish 18 month response fund – to December 2021**

- This option is also for an ORS response fund, with the funding spread across two financial years. This would enable schools to employ up to an additional 683 FTE teacher aides for 18 months, to the end of the 2021 school year. This option would add 13.4% more ORS teacher aide hours into the system over the 18 month period to be targeted to respond to support needs in the post COVID environment. As indicated above, this option is subject to Treasury agreement.

**Table 2: Options for ORS time limited funding**

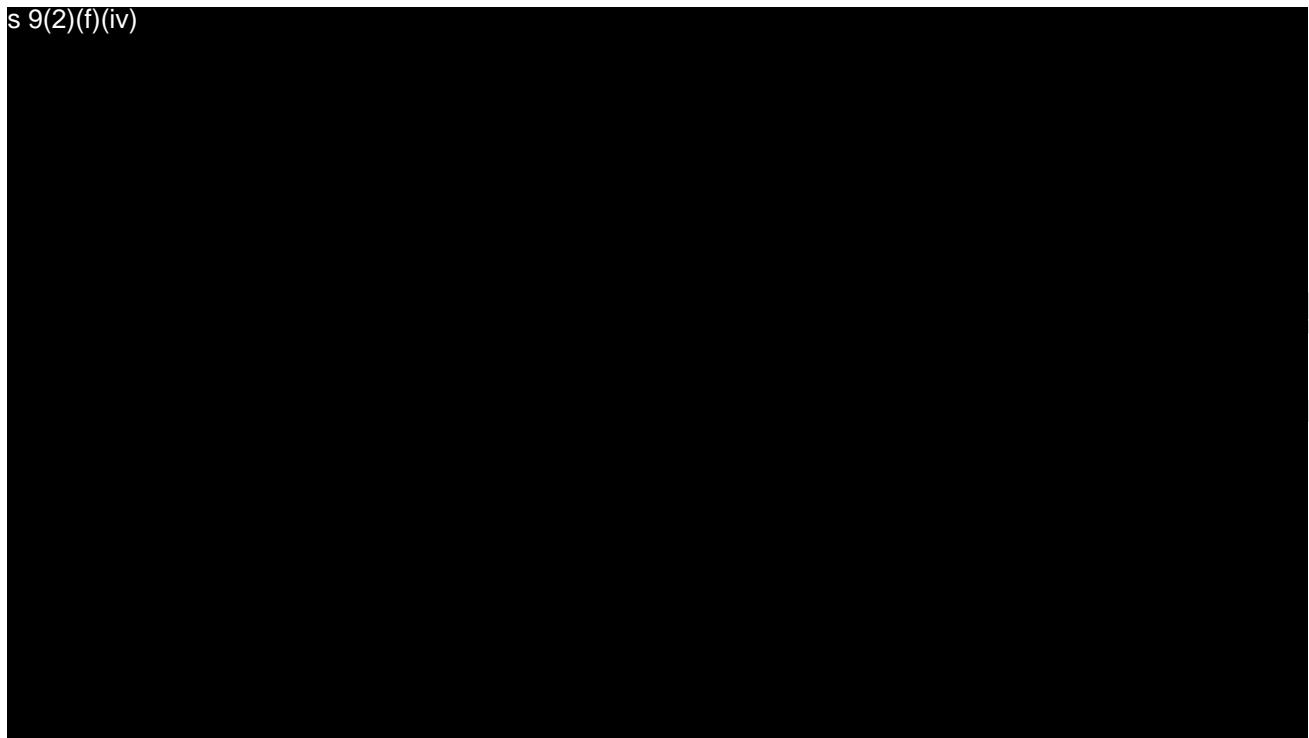
Option	Additional Teacher Aide FTEs funded	Increased average TA hours per student	% increase in TA hours	Approvals
<b>Option 1 – 12 month response fund</b>	1,025	3.0	20.6	No approval required
<b>Option 2 – 18 month response fund</b>	683	2.0	13.4	Requires Treasury approval at October Baseline Update

**Ongoing funding for permanent increase in teacher aide hours**

- The Wave 2 COVID-19 response bid of \$144.222m provides an average additional three hours of ongoing teacher aide funding per student per week, bringing the average total hours to 13 (for students with high needs) and 20 (for very high needs students). Fundholder schools will also receive a permanent increase in funding equivalent to the three hour allocation for high and very high needs students.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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