Briefing Note: Meeting with the Guardians of the Education Conversation

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<th>To:</th>
<th>Hon Chris Hipkins</th>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>17 October 2019</td>
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<td>Drafter:</td>
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<td>Emily Fabling</td>
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<td>Messaging seen by</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Communications team:</td>
<td>Round Robin: No</td>
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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

**Note** that at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 22 October you are meeting the Guardians of the Education Conversation who wish to discuss the following items:

- Their reflections on the extent to which diverse voices, including those seldom heard, are reflected in the Education Work Programme.
- Their reflections on the key themes from the Kōrero Mātauranga and the extent to which they are being incorporated across the Education Work Programme.

**Noted**

**Note** that, as this is the Guardians' final formal meeting, you might want to acknowledge their service.

**Noted**

**Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

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Emily Fabling  
Deputy Secretary
Strategy, Planning and Governance

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

17/10/2019  
22/10/19
Background

1. The Guardians of the Education Conversation (the Guardians) were re-appointed in March 2019 to:
   - Provide guidance and oversight to the Ministry of Education on the narrative and kaupapa of the overall Education Work Programme, how it all fits together, and ensure that it resonates with the voices heard during the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation.
   - Continue to provide input and insight for a 30 year vision, reflecting the voices and kaupapa that emerged from the Korero Mātauranga | Education Conversation.
   - Maintain a high level overall perspective so they can identify areas of particular focus where the voices could be more strongly emphasised.
   - Through their work, provide a mechanism that delivers increased confidence and assurance to the Minister of Education and New Zealanders that the voices are reflected in the Education Work Programme.

2. The Guardians have since held three meetings focussing on the key initiatives of the Education Work Programme. On 17 September they released a press statement and summary of the voices heard through the Education Conversation | Kōrero Mātauranga (attached as Annex 1).

3. The Guardians’ Terms of Reference indicates their appointment expires on 20 December 2019 and that they could hold four meetings this year. Their fourth and final meeting starts at 1.30pm on Tuesday, 22 October. Their agenda includes discussion on: the Early Learning Strategy; Curriculum, Progress and Achievement; the National Education Learning Priorities; and the Tertiary Education Strategy, as well as engagement with the Secretary for Education.

4. Their meeting concludes with an appointment with you from 5:15pm to 5:45 pm. They wish to discuss with you:
   - Their reflections on the extent to which diverse voices, including those seldom heard, are reflected in the Education Work Programme.
   - Their reflections on the key themes from the Kōrero Mātauranga and the extent to which they are being incorporated across the Education Work Programme.

5. Following the meeting, the Guardians are dining together at Bellamy’s from 6pm (and you would be welcome to join them).

6. As this is the Guardians’ final formal meeting, you may want to acknowledge their service, and reflect on the extent to which having such an Advisory Group has impacted on your Education Work Programme (see Possible Talking Points Acknowledging Guardians’ Role, attached as Annex 2).

7. You may also want to invite the Guardians to provide final advice to you about the National Education Learning Priorities before the end of their term on 20 December 2019. They are meeting with NELP programme leads at their meeting on 22 October. Their views will be collated and circulated to them for further feedback. You could
request that this feedback be provided to the Chair to provide written advice to you by 25th of November.

Proactive Release

8. \textbf{We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.}

Annexes:

Annex 1: Guardians’ Press Statement and Summary of Voices heard through the Education Conversation.

Annex 2: Possible Talking Points Acknowledging Guardians’ Role
Annex 1: Guardians' Press Statement and Summary of Voices heard through the Education Conversation

Education: the community has spoken

17 September 2019

New Zealanders have had a major opportunity to have their say on the future of education in this country, the Chair of the Guardians of the Education Conversation, Judge Andrew Becroft, said today.

The Guardians, a Ministerial advisory group, oversees how the views expressed in Kōrero Mātauranga | the Education Conversation are reflected in education policy.

"Through a ground breaking national conversation starting with the Education Summit and continuing through a range of engagements like online surveys, face-to-face meetings, hui and fono we’ve heard nearly 60,000 voices. The people have let the Government know about their hopes for education and for their whānau, communities and children.

"Today the Guardians are releasing a high-level summary of what we have heard through the Kōrero. This represents the voices of the community as we heard them.

"We have heard that we all want our kids to learn good basic skills. Our education system should help develop independent thinkers, who can read, write and analyse. But equally we have heard we need an education system that considers the wellbeing of learners too.

"We’ve heard there are big challenges facing some people in education. New Zealanders like to think all children have the same opportunities at school, and all young adults can access and participate in tertiary and on-going education. But people have told us the playing field is far from level. Māori children, young people, whānau and teachers told us that the system needed to better reflect and foster Māori identity, language and culture. Those in lower decile areas, Pacific learners and those with disability also struggle in mainstream education.

"In publicising key ideas collected from New Zealanders, the Guardians are providing a frame of reference for successive governments and systems to assess what is delivered through education in the decades ahead.

"And by recording these voices, the Guardians are helping to ensure the Ministry of Education is living up to its commitment to work with communities in a new, more inclusive and transparent way.

"The Education Conversation has taken a design-led, participatory approach that is unique at such scale. We are grateful so many people - tangata whenua, recent migrants, experienced educators, children in their early years of education, Pacific peoples, disabled people, employers and many others - have given their views about the future of education.

"The Guardians believe the principle of engaging citizens in the design of education has been a valuable process. It exemplifies what democracy is all about and that education is a community responsibility."

Judge Becroft said the Guardians’ are looking forward to seeing New Zealander’s views reflected in the Government’s 30-year vision for the future of education which has been released by the Minister of Education today, alongside consultation documents on National Education & Learning Priorities and the Tertiary Education Strategy here.

Enclosed: Annex – Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation What people told us

Media enquiries for Judge Becroft: Rachael Bowie: 04 495 7805 or 027 698 5101
Editor's note:
The Education Summit Advisory Group, also known as the Guardians of the Education Conversation is Chaired by Judge Andrew Becroft, Children's Commissioner and has as its members Sir Lockwood Smith, Marian Hobbs, Prof Rawinia Higgins, Dr Suitafo Debbie Ryan, Dr Welby Ings, Etta Bollinger, and Deborah Walker.

The group was established to:

- provide guidance and oversight to the Ministry of Education on the narrative and kaupapa of the overall Education Work Programme
- continue to provide input and insight for the Government's 30-year vision for education, reflecting the voices and kaupapa that have emerged from Kōrero Mātauranga | the Education Conversation
- maintain a high level overview perspective so it can identify areas of particular focus where the voices could be more strongly emphasised, and
- through its work, provide a mechanism that delivers increased confidence and assurance to the Government, and to New Zealanders, that the voices that have emerged from Kōrero Mātauranga | the Education Conversation are reflected in the Education Work Programme

For more about the Guardians, see https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/leaders-guide-future-education-nz

For more about the process involving a range of voices in the design of the future of education, see: https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/education-conversation/