

Guardians of the Education Conversation Terms of Reference

The Guardians of the Education Conversation¹ will provide advice to the Minister of Education on the narrative and kaupapa of the overall Education Work Programme, how it all fits together and will ensure that it resonates with the voices heard during the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation.

Context

In 2018, the Government set an ambitious goal of building the best education system in the world. More than 43,000 Kiwis have engaged in the process of shaping an education system for the future, through Education Summits, responding to the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation on-line survey, attending wānanga, fono and focus group meetings or workshops, or completing programme specific surveys.

These engagements and activities were planned to engage citizens in the design of education services and to provide the opportunity to continue to build trust between the Government, the profession and all involved in education. As the Government makes decisions on the Education Work Programme in 2019, consultation and engagement with New Zealanders will be ongoing.

The many interconnected initiatives of the Education Work Programme touch almost every part of the education system and are the Government's major tools for reform. These initiatives will be based on what it's been hearing from stakeholders at the Education Summits and through the Education Conversation | Kōrero Mātauranga.

Outcome

As the Ministry of Education prepares the high level narrative of how the Education Work Programme's initiatives fit together and complement each other, the Guardians of the Education Conversation will provide guidance and oversight to ensure it remains true to voices and kaupapa that emerged from the Education Summits and the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation.

Scope

The Guardians of the Education Conversation will serve 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 a 30 year vision, reflecting the voices and kaupapa that emerged from the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation;

¹ The Guardians of the Education Conversation (formerly known as the Education Summit Advisory Group), of eight members, was first appointed by the Minister of Education in April 2018.

- maintain a high level overview perspective so they can identify areas of particular focus where the voices could be more strongly emphasised; and
- 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.

Operation

The Guardians of the Education Conversation will operate in a transparent and open manner. The Guardians of the Education Conversation will ensure that they have sufficient overview and are able to reflect on the Education Work Programme as it progresses. Up to date information about the Education Work programme initiatives will be available on the website www.conversation.education.govt.nz and additional material will be provided by the Ministry.

The Guardians will hold up to four meetings during their term. The Ministry of Education will provide secretariat support and the Guardians of the Education Conversation will work with and through the secretariat. The secretariat has a budget to operate the group, including travel costs. The Guardians will not have an independent budget.

Membership

Members of the Guardians of the Education Conversation will be recommended by the Minister of Education and appointed by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee. The term of appointment will be until December 2019 and reappointment is possible. The Guardians of the Education Conversation will comprise 8 members drawn from a diverse cross-section of New Zealand society.

Fees

Fees for the members of the Guardians of the Education Conversation have been assessed in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework in Cabinet Office Circular (12)6 *Fees framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest*. They have been classified as Group 4 Level 2 bodies and the per diem entitlement will be \$800 for the Chair and \$500 for members. Any reasonable expenses incurred in the provision of their services may be refunded by the Ministry of Education.

If a member is an employee of a government agency, organisation, or body, or any local authority as defined under section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2005, and is to be appointed to a body in their own right, the employee must obtain the agreement of his/her employer before accepting the appointment. Such appointments are treated as secondary employment. Employees of the organisations outlined above must not retain both fee and his/her ordinary pay where the duties of the outside organisation are undertaken during ordinary department or Crown body working hours.

Key Relationships

In addition to the Minister of Education, the Guardians of the Education Conversation may engage with those leading the Education Work Programme initiatives such as Ministerial Advisory Group chairs, Ministry of Education leaders and other education agencies.

Unless otherwise agreed engagements with key stakeholders will be arranged through the Ministry of Education.

Public Sector Principles

Members are expected to maintain the values and ethos of the public service. All members must be aware of the importance of personal integrity and the need to declare conflicts of interest, either potential or actual. Members must also ensure that they have the interest and enthusiasm needed to contribute effectively to the performance of the Advisory Group throughout their term of membership.

Conflicts of interest

As part of the appointment process members disclose conflicts of interests relating to the Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation and the Education Work Programme.

Members who have conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, will discuss them with the Chair of the Guardians of the Education Conversation who will determine the appropriate course of action to mitigate any potential risks and issues arising from the conflict.

Official Information

All information relating to the Guardians of the Education Conversation is governed by the Official Information Act 1982. Official information requests will be administered by the Ministry of Education and managed in consultation with the Chair.

Media

Where required, the Chair of the Guardians of the Education Conversation will be responsible for responding to media/public engagement associated with the work of the Guardians of the Education Conversation, with the support of, and in consultation with the Ministry of Education.