Cabinet Paper material Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Name of package COVID-19: Emergency funding to enable distance learning for early learning

and schooling

Date considered 7 April 2020

Date of release

These documents have been proactively released:

Advice paper: COVID-19: Emergency funding to enable distance learning for early learning and schooling

Date considered: 7 April 2020

Ministry of Education

Decision minute: COVID-19: Emergency funding to enable

distance learning for early learning and schooling

Date considered: 7 April 2020

Cabinet office

Material redacted

Some deletions have been made from the documents in line with withholding grounds under the Official Information Act 1982. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

The applicable withholding grounds under the Act are as follows:

Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and

officials

You can read the Official Information Act 1982 here: http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Education
Chair, Cabinet COVID-19 Committee

EMERGENCY FUNDING TO ENABLE DISTANCE LEARNING FOR EARLY LEARNING AND SCHOOLING

Proposal

1. This paper seeks approval of immediate funding of \$51.340 million \$9(2)(f)(iv) to enable distance learning fo all learners now that their early learning services, schools and kura have tempo arily closed as part of the emergency response to COVID-19.

	\$m - crease					
Existing funding (already approved by Cabinet)	<	\$36.440 in 2019/20 and 2020/21				
New Funding Requirements	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears	
Hard packs	\$33.297					
Television	\$4.825					
Access to online learning and tea h ng	\$13.218					
Total new funding: Distance earning for Early Learning and Schooling	\$51.340	-	-	-	-	

Background

- 2. Ea ly learning services, schools and kura are temporarily closed as part of response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and teachers are shifting to leading learning from a distance from 15 April 2020. Disruption to the education of early learners and school students can be mitigated if learners are able to access suitable teaching and learning from home.
- 3. On 23 March 2020 Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and Minister of Education to approve the provision of immediate funding of \$36.440 million in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to ensure students can access teaching and learning online if their school is temporarily closed [CAB-MIN-20-0136 refers].
- 4. Following further work there is now a better understanding of what is needed to enable distance learning for all learners in early learning and schooling. This means

there is a need for further emergency funding for the education response to the COVID-19 pandemic for a range of initiatives that will ensure reach and equity, so that disruption to learning progress is minimised.

5.	I seek agreement to immediate funding of \$51.340 million	n s 9(2)(f)(iv)
		This funding will be used
	for initiatives that will:	

- 5.1. Enable as many learners as possible to access online teaching and learning. This includes Internet connections and fit-for-education devices allocated in tranches for learners without these, taking into account prioritised needs
- 5.2. Enable all learners to have access to at least one channel for distance learning from 15 April 2020. This includes distributing packs with physical and/or hard copy resources and television broadcast channels delivering educational content.
- 5.3. Enable all early learning services, schools and kura to deliver teaching and learning from a distance, with kaiako and teacher working from home. This includes technical infrastructure, capability building and access to quality content.
- 6. Teaching and learning supports implemented as part of these initiatives, such as online environments and home packs, will be designed to support and empower parents, whānau and caregivers to support their children's learning at home, in partnership with kaiako and teachers. Kaiako and teachers will continue to lead learning, but adults in the bubble will be critical particularly for younger learners.
- 7. I will provide regular progress updates on implementation of these initiatives.

Enabling as many learners as possible to access online teaching and learning

8. Through data matching with telecommunication providers, there are now more accurate estimates for the number of homes without access to the Internet and/or any fit-for-education devices at home. Current estimates are 82,000 homes (covering 145,000 school age learners), up from 50,000 homes (covering 100,000 school age learners) when in tial emergency funding was agreed.

9.	s 9(2)()(iv)		
10.	9(2)(f)(iv)		

11. The Ministry is focussing first on connecting learners in senior secondary school working towards NCEA and those with needs for tailored support. This reflects the need to minimise disruption to learning for learners working towards a qualification, and the effectiveness of online teaching and learning for this age group. Māori and

Pacific learners and their families will experience complicating factors for distance learning such as overcrowding which will require particular consideration. Students with learning support needs and those experiencing financial hardship are also in need of tailored support. Once these groups of learners are covered then the Ministry will move down the year levels from years 10 to 1, and continue to give priority to learners with greatest need as outlined above.

Enabling all learners to have access to at least one channel for distance learning

- 12. For school students access to online teaching and learning is the most sustainable option, particularly for older year groups. However, as noted above, not all learners in need will be able to access online learning immediately.
- 13. To ensure that no learner is left without access to education during the pandemic, I seek:
 - 13.1. \$33.297 million of immediate funding for packs with physical and/or hard copy resources across early learning (including Kōhanga Reo) and schooling (English medium and Māori medium). At 508 500 hard packs in development, this is on average \$65.50 per pack. The costs include:
 - materials Development
 - hard materials
 - printing
 - shipping and distribution.
 - 13.2. million of immediate funding for an English medium television broadcast channel from 15 April to 30 June 2020.
 - 13.3. million of immediate funding for a Māori medium television broadcast channel from 15 April to 30 June 2020.
 - 13.4. pacific communities and other communities from New Zealand's diverse population
- 14. While the Ministry has large number of packs ready to go, these will not be enough (particularly fo children aged under 5), so learners with the greatest need are being prioritis d first and, for school students, those without the ability to access online learning. This funding will provide:
 - 14.1. Two rounds of early learning packs for 76,000 children
 - 14.2. 20,000 packs for whānau in Kōhanga Reo and 20,000 packs for ākonga in Māori medium, covering 0–18 year olds
 - 14.3. Two rounds of hard copy packs for 150,000 year 1 to 10 students in English medium
 - 14.4. 16,500 packs for students studying NCEA
 - 14.5. Learning across multiple weeks for each learner, as below.

Hard Pack	Time (weeks)
Early Learning	Four weeks
Primary	Four weeks
Secondary	Up to 12 months ¹

15. The Ministry of Education has agreed arrangements with Television New Zealand and Māori Television for the provision of television broadcasting, which is why I am seeking immediate funding for this.

Enabling all early learning services, schools and kura to deliver teaching and learning from a distance

- 16. There is variability in how ready early learning services, schools and kura a e to deliver teaching and learning from a distance. Around 56 percent of schools have identified as ready and confident to provide teaching and learning online. The Ministry is working with the sector to provide support and resources for those schools and Kura that need additional support for this. This includes es ab ishing two online learning platforms, *Learning from Home* and *Ki te Ao Mārama*
- 17. For many schools and kura, the shift to online teaching and learning is significant. When the emergency started, many signalled that they were not ready or that they weren't sure that they are ready. The Ministry is working with schools and kura to better understand their needs, which has made clear that there needs to be a comprehensive package in place to meet the different needs that exist.
- 18. Existing centralised funding for professional learning and development has been reprioritised for a COVID-19 PLD Support Package which has already:
 - 18.1. invested \$6.84 million in the PLD provider network with 20 percent invested in organisations with Māori Medium capacity (retaining \$1.3 million in contingency)
 - 18.2. contracted 64 providers through to the end of term two 2020 giving NZ schools and kura access to around 400 facilitators (or 125 FTE)
 - 18.3. purchased 7,600 days of support, 20 percent of which can be delivered by Māori Medium facilitators.
- 19. This means that if half of New Zealand schools and kura seek support then on average they could each receive six days support. If one third of New Zealand chools and kura seek support then on average they could each receive 10 days support.
- 20. Alongside support to strengthen capability, many schools and kura also need support to deliver online teaching and learning, or would benefit from ready to use content. I seek immediate funding to establish a \$13.218 million package of supports which includes:

¹ The Ministry is working towards having a library with a breadth of resources for students to complete a year's worth of learning remotely if necessary. We have endeavoured to provide hard materials that will support teachers to continue to deliver their local curriculum at whichever assessment stage they are at.

- 20.1. \$2.654 million to provide access to an online package of ready-to-go teaching and learning courseware for 200,000 students
- 20.2. \$3.021 million for online learning support, including extending reach of the Virtual Learning Network to more primary and secondary students and reestablishing the Connected Advisory Services
- 20.3. \$2.232 million to provide access to an online collaborative learning environment which teachers can use to deliver content to 35,000 students
- 20.4. \$0.250 million for extra support to schools and kura to help them use online learning tools
- 20.5. \$1.996 million for telephony costs and Internet connectivity for 20,000 staff due to the need to work from home
- 20.6. sequences for school staff
- 20.7. so(2)(f)(v) million for eight hours of ICT technical support per school.

Implementation

21. A timetable for implementation for the next three weeks is shown in Annex 1.

Publicity

22. Agreement to additional funding will enable communication about the overall plan for ensuring all children and young people will have access to a quality education throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will help provide confidence to learners, families and whānau, and the early learning and schooling sector about the supports being put in place to minimise disruption to learning progress and look after the wellbeing of those directly involved in delivering teaching and learning.

Financial Implications

- 23. I am seeking add tional funding to implement this package of support. This paper seeks approva to charge \$51.340 million against the COVID-19 Response and Recove y Fund to be established as part of Budget 2020. Any underspends will be returned to the Centre once known.
- 24. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 25. The Ministry has also reprioritised existing Vote Education funding to help cover the costs of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and this has been used to begin implementation of these initiatives.
- 26. Further funding needs for 2020/21 and beyond will be considered through the Budget 2020 process or the COVID-19 Response and Recovery fund process. This will consider both needs if the emergency situation continues, and the opportunity to

build on the benefits of a more digitally and distance-learning enabled education system.

Recommendations

The Minister of Education recommends that the Committee:

- 1. **note** that on 23 March 2020 Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and Minister of Education to approve the provision of immediate funding of \$36.440 million in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to ensure students can access teaching and learning online if their school is temporarily closed [CAB-MIN-20-0136 refers]
- 2. **note** that following further work there is now a better understanding of what is needed to enable distance learning for all learners in early learning and schooling
- 3. **agree** to the Ministry of Education providing a package of support to learners for enabling distance learning for early learning and schooling for the beginning of Term 2, (15 April 2020), which will include distributing packs with physical and/or hard copy resources and television broadcast channels delivering educational content
- 4. **agree** to the Ministry of Education providing a package of support to help schools and kura provide online teaching and learning, which will include multiple delivery channels
- 5. **approve** the following changes to appropriat ons to give effect to the policy decisions in recommendation 3 and 4 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

		\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 &	
Minister of Education					Outyears	
Multi-Category Expens s and Capital						
Expenditure:						
Improved Qualit Tea hing and Learning						
MCA						
Departmenta Output Expense:						
Supp rt and Resources for Teachers	\$44.939	-	-	-	-	
Non-departmental Output Expense:		-	-	-	-	
Curriculum Support	\$6.401					
Operating	\$51.340	-	-	-	-	

6. **agree** that the proposed change to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply

- 7. **agree** that the expenses incurred under recommendation 5 be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to be established as part of Budget
- 8. **note** that the Minister of Education will provide regular progress updates on implementation and uptake
- 9. **agree** that any underspends related to the amounts appropriated in recommendation 5 will be returned to the Centre.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for Education

Annex 1 Programme Map – Covid response activities to facilitate Distance Learning Phase 2 - support for schools opening 15th April and immediate aftermath

Work-stream	End of week 30 march	Week beginning 6 April	Week beginning 13 April	Week beginning 20 April
Survey	Survey to all schools and kura to better understand current capability and capacity to provide online/distance learning.	Survey/data collection form to identify learners who would require a device, or hard pack to be delivered on 16 April.		
Broadcast	English medium Television	English medium Television	All	All
Stand up of Broadcast channel(s) and ongoing development and delivery of daily content Aligned to the National Curriculum and the needs of all English Medium, reo Māori learners and Māori medium	 Scope and approval to launch Home school TV. Māori Television Scope of content development in progress. Note: One hour of Māori language content is being made available for language learners. 	 Contract signed with TVNZ Communication to launch Content plans finalised to deliver 6.5 hrs of education content to learners relevant to age groups (e.g. EL 'play' sessions) – staggered approach Content production/filming starts. Māori Television Contract signed with Māori TV Communication to launch finalised 	Go Live – 15 April Continued development and production of new Broadcast content.	Continued development and production of new Broadcast content.
		Content development begins Agreements in place with key whānau to record specific content.		
Online Learning Support	Learningfromhome.govt.nz	Learningfromhome.govt.nz	Learningfromhome.govt.nz	All sites
Development, collation, and upload of website resources for Early learning to senior secondary learners, teachers and parents • learningfromhome.govt.nz	Launch website: learningfromhome.govt.nz – with load for priority content and advice.	 Load of priority learning resources from Te Kura, leaders and teacher Identify, collate and final load of content. 	Identify, collate and final load of content.	Continued collation of materials, development and upload to websites.
Collation and launch of Ki te	Ki te Ao Mārama	Ki te Ao Mārama	Ki te Ao Mārama	
Ao Mārama on Kauwhata Reo to support whānau, ākonga and kaiako te progress learning at home • kauwhatareo.govt.nz	 Launch and load for priority content and advice. Source and draft exemplars of 'best practice' For distance learning in early learning services for publication on Learningfromhome and Ki te Ao Mārama. 	Additional content is being developed and quality assured for load to the site. Publish exemplars of 'best practice' for distance learning in early learning services on Learningfromhome and Ki te Ao Mārama.	Additional content is being developed and quality assured for load to the site.	
Student support			to be reopened by 15 April and updates prioritised to provide students with online NCEA tutoring.	

Teacher/leader capability	Virtual Learning Network	Virtual Learning Network	Virtual Learning Network	All activities
	 Negotiation to extend numbers of students who can access direct teaching through the VLN network. 	Contract signed to extend numbers of students who can access direct teaching through the VLN network.	VLN extended service commence.	Continued support provided.
	PLD Support	PLD Support	PLD Support	
	Schools access support from current provider	Helpdesk function enabled	Service continues.	
	where possible and	Service operational.		
		Schools matched with PLD provider		
	CORE Education to stand up connected learning service to support schools and kura.			
	Kahu Pūtoi	Kahu Pūtoi	Kahu Pūtoi	
	Online space to support kaiako to create professional and curriculum online communities	All security checks completed	Launch to support k ako and ākonga with distance learning.	
	with others so they can support each other to	Communications prepared for launch	learning.	
	develop stronger reo Māori and kaupapa Māori learning programmes.	 Content to introduce and support kaiako and ākonga to engage in the online communities completed. 		
	Rangaranga			
	Online community collaboration space for kaiako to work with ākonga and where ākonga can work with others on shared topics.			
Hard Copy	Hard copy resources overview:	Numbers printed or distributed this week:	Numbers printed or distributed this week:	Numbers printed or distributed this week:
Development, collation,	Early Learning	Early learning	Early Learning	Early Learning – through to May
printing and distribution of hard packs to schools, learners, , parents and whānau	Design, sourcing materials for hard copy early learning resource kits out to some children in early learning in services which receive Targeted Funding for Disadvantage (TFFD). There will be two different kits:	7,216). Printing un erwa and scheduled for completion on 15 A ril	Early learning pack distribution: Initial run ('tranche 1') will distribute resources to approx. 12,000 ākonga.	Continued sourcing of content for 'Tranche 2' of early learning hardcopy kits design underway. This will target children at all other TFFD services (approx. 64,000 children). Printing and distribution will be conducted up to May-June)
	 Kit A: for children aged 3 to 5 years of age Kit B: for children aged under 3 years of 	 Sourcing conten for 'Tranche 2' of early learning hard opy k ts des gn underway. This will target children at all of e TFFD services (approx. 64,000 		
	age.	ch d en)		
	This includes printed resources, items such as books, crayons and paper, and other age appropriate items. Also included will be a letter to parents, safety messaging, and ideas for supporting play at home. (This information walso be available online)	Also s urcing material for second version of 'follow-up kits ta eted to the initial 12,000 'Tranche 1' children being sourced (intended for a May-June delive y).		
	 Ordering contents of 'Tranche 2' of early learing hardcopy kits design underway. This will targe children at all other TFFD services (aprox. 64,000). 			
	Schooling	Schooling	Schooling	Schooling
	Hard packs include re_di_g books, literacy, maths and science educ_ional activities for	 The first 20,000 (per day) packs distributed prioritised to year 1-3 	Pack distribution - Years 1 – 10	Pack distribution - Years 1 – 10
	Years 1 – 10	 Pack distribution – 6,000 SchoolKit (Yr 1-3; 8/9 April). 	20,000 each day provided the need is there. Up to 150,000	20,000 each day provided the need is there. Up to 150,000

1	1	DRAFT IN CONFIDENCE – NOT GOVERNMEN	I POLICY	1
	 Some stationery items, along with a parent guidance sheet explaining how to use these resources 			
	Ministry of Health brochure to remind families about the importance of staying safe and washing their hands etc. to stop the spread of COVID 19			
	SchoolKit will be providing a kit to 6,000 students in South Auckland and West Auckland. These kits support a child's learning and are able to be used by parents.			
	Ki te Ao Mārama Materials	Maori medium resources	Maori medium resourc s	Ongoing review and consideration will
	A range of reading materials, activity cards and Covid-19 guidelines to ensure whānau have	20,000 packs available for all ākonga in kura and MM settings from Yr 1-13.	Māori medium erials distr buted	be given to whether further packs are needed if isolation continues for further months.
	support to assist their tamariki, mokopuna with learning from home	20,000 packs are available for Kōhanga Reo and Puna Reo learners aged 0-4.		
	NCEA	NCEA	NCEA	
	Field Māori resources made available for students in Māori-medium settings, online and in hard copy, focusing on Te Reo Māori and Māori Performing Arts. 500 of these packs are ready for distribution	 Unit standard packages for up to 16,500 students likely to lack digital access provided directly to those students Distribution of hard-copy NCEA textbook and 	Memoranda of Understanding with third tranche of ublishers confirmed. This tranche will focus on sp cialist catalogues to fill gaps in tranche 1 and 2 pr vision, and may include sector groups like Subject Associations.	
	Range of subject-specific resources made available, online and in hard copy, to be provided directly to students to support NCEA learning across subjects	workbooks begins as schools request rough SalesForce platform Supply will be avail le or up to 16,500 students accessing up to six sub cts each, with provision for up to 20% of enrolme s in each NCEA subject for which reso rces are available	Cubject Associations.	
	Memoranda of Understanding with first tranche of publishers (Open Polytechnic and Instant Education) to license, print and distribute subject-specific content and accessible unit standards packs, online and in hard copy	 Memoranda of Understan ing with e ond tranche of publishers confirmed. This tranche will focus on other publishers with bro d callogues Negotiations commenced with ITOs for access to 		
	This includes online access to Open Polytechnic's iQualify platform, and acquiring an initial tranche of over 10,000 items of hard-copy content ready for launch to be provided to schools immediately.	hardcopy resou ces igned to the Vocational Pathways, with d stribution to follow as resources become available		
Equitable Digital Access	Connectivity	Connectivity	Connectivity	Connectivity
Provision of technology solutions (devices and internet connectivity) to	Chorus and other Telcos (Enable and Ultrafast fibre at this stage) have confirmed they will provide their wholesale broadband service fo free for six months	 Roll o t of connectivity commences to initial 2,000 ous holds from Monday 6th April Sign up of further internet service providers. 	Roll out of connectivity continues numbers to be determined as contracts are secured.	Roll out of connectivity continues numbers to be determined as contracts are secured.
address the digital divide	Terms agreed for provision of connect vity t 2,000 households			
	Negotiations underway with add ional term t service providers.			
	Devices	Devices	Devices	Devices
	Secure stock of 7000 o shore devices; which will be supplemented with ffshore supply, first shipment will arrive in four weeks.	 Supply commences of devices 7,000, prioritising NCEA students and informed by the completed surveys (see above). 	Supply continues of devices continues	 Supply continues of devices continues Next shipment expected onshore week commencing 20/4.
	1	1	1	'

e-learning	Software 4	& Systems	- Online
Platforms		-	

• Commercial negotiations underway with suppliers for delivery of platforms.

e-learning Software & Systems - Online Platforms

• Commercial agreements with suppliers for delivery of platforms.





Meeting of the COVID-19 Ministerial Group

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Emergency Funding to Enable Distance Learning for Early Learning and Schooling

The group of Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters [CAB-20-MIN-0130] convened on 7 April 2020 at 10.30am, and in accordance with their Power to Act:

- noted that on 23 March 2020, Cabinet authorised the Minister of Fin nce and the Minister of Education to approve the provision of immediate funding of \$36 440 million in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to ensure students can access teaching and learning online if their school is temporarily closed [CAB-20-MIN-0136];
- noted that following further work, there is now a better understanding of what is needed to enable distance learning for all learners in early learning and schooling;
- agreed to the Ministry of Education providing a package of support to learners for enabling distance learning for early learning and schooling for the beginning of Term 2 (15 April 2020), which will include distributing packs with physical and/or hard copy resources and television broadcast channels del vering educational content;
- 4 **agreed** to the Ministry of Education providing a package of support to help schools and kura provide online teaching and learning, which will include multiple delivery channels;
- approved the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education Minister of Education	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Improved Quality Teaching and Learning MCA					
Departmental Output Expense:					
Support and Resources for Teachers	44.939	-	-	-	-
Non-departmental Output Expense:		-	-	-	-
Curriculum Support	6.401				
Operating	51.340	-	-	-	-

IN CONFIDENCE

- agreed that the changes to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- agreed that the expenses incurred under paragraph 5 be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to be established as part of Budget 2020;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Education will provide regular progress updates on implementation and uptake;

agreed that any underspends related to the amounts appropriated in paragraph 5 above will be returned to the Centre.

Rachel Hayward for Secretary of the Cabinet

Distribution:

The Cabinet Hon James Shaw

Copied to officials via email