

Media Release

NZEI and Ministry of Education partner up to hear voices of teachers and kaiako about a broad and future-focused curriculum

NZEI Te Riu Roa and the Ministry of Education are joining forces to unleash the potential of the curricula via a series of nationwide hui.

The partnership project will support teachers/kaiako to engage more intensively with the National Curricula (The New Zealand Curriculum, Te Whāriki, and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa) in order to enhance teaching practice and lead to better outcomes for all children.

National Standards and Nga Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori were introduced in 2010. Their introduction led to a focus on literacy and numeracy to the detriment of learning in other parts of the curricula. Also, the label “below standard” had a negative impact on many children because it did not reflect the variety of ways children learn and make progress.

NZEI President Lynda Stuart said New Zealand’s world-leading curricula already provides teachers with a framework for educating all students and tracking their progress.

With a significant number of teachers having only ever taught under National Standards and Nga Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori, Ms Stuart said it was time to focus on strengthening the use of the curricula for understanding and supporting student progress and achievement.

“There’s no so-called ‘vacuum’ following the demise of National Standards and Nga Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori,” said Ms Stuart.

The focus will be on how curricula vision, principles and capabilities weave together with knowledge and skills in local curriculum design. This broad curriculum approach will be the platform for children and young people to be able to learn and thrive in a world that increasingly values and uses capabilities and knowledge interdependently.

Ellen MacGregor-Reid, the Ministry’s Deputy Secretary Early Learning and Student Achievement said, “We are looking forward to collaborating with NZEI on this, utilising our joint networks to bring together teachers, kaiako and curriculum experts. Our curricula are widely celebrated and these hui will provide rich discussion, challenge and supports for participants.”

“It’s a great opportunity to examine how teachers realise the potential of our curricula. These hui represent a collective responsibility and shared endeavour to get it right for all kids in a modern and diverse Aotearoa,” said Ms MacGregor-Reid.

Six hui will be held next month, titled *Growing from strong foundations - exploring the potential of the National Curricula for all learners*. The hui will start in Auckland with two events on 5 and 6 June, then in Wellington (11 June), Dunedin (14 June), Christchurch (15 June) and Rotorua (18 June).

Approximately 100-150 participants will attend each hui. A broad range of participants are invited to attend including those from schools, kura and early childhood education services, experienced and newer practitioners and principals, assistant principals and deputy principals, curricula leaders, specialist teachers, mentor teachers and beginning teachers in both schools and kura, and board of trustee chairs.