



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Supporting Māori Boarding School: Infrastructure Model

Portfolio Māori Development

On 22 June 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

Budget 2021 funding decision

- 1 **noted** that in Budget 2021, Cabinet approved \$20 million to improve the critical infrastructure of Māori Boarding Schools (Te Aute College, Hukarere Girls' College, Hato Pāora College, and St Joseph's Māori Girls' College) [CAB-21-MIN-0116.20];
- 2 **noted** that the above funding fulfils a Government Māori Manifesto commitment that recognises the important role Māori boarding schools play in growing future Māori leaders and aims to assist them "*to continue to house, educate and manaaki rangatahi in their care*";

School infrastructure condition assessments and implications

- 3 **noted** that the non-classroom infrastructure of each of the four Māori boarding schools has been independently assessed by suitably qualified experts who have identified a series of critical infrastructure issues that need to be addressed if the hostels and associated facilities are to meet minimum relevant health and safety standards over the next five years;
- 4 **noted** that:
 - 4.1 the common critical infrastructure issues identified in the assessments included roofing problems, asbestos, and deficient electrical, plumbing, and fire safety systems
 - 4.2 the appropriation in paragraph 1 is confined to the private facilities of the schools, not classroom or chapel settings;
- 5 **noted** that the condition assessments identified some urgent issues requiring immediate attention at St Joseph's Māori Girls College and Hato Pāora College that are being addressed through works being undertaken by the relevant proprietors;
- 6 **noted** that the 'minimum standards' codified in the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005 have the primary purpose of ensuring the safety of boarders in school hostels and that hostels that do not hold a current licence cannot accommodate boarders;

- 7 **noted** that in May 2022, initial payments of \$2.337 million were provided to the proprietors of both Hato Pāora College and St Joseph’s Māori Girls’ College to address the critical works requiring immediate attention;

Funding allocation need

- 8 **noted** that, based on the condition assessments and advice on the estimated costs from the independent providers, the following level of funding allocation need is proposed:

- 8.1 St Joseph’s Māori Girls’ College (High);
- 8.2 Hato Pāora College (Medium);
- 8.3 Te Aute College (Medium);
- 8.4 Hukarere Girls’ College (Low);

- 8 **agreed** to the following total funding allocation from the Māori Board Schools appropriation across 2021/22 and 2022/23 to the relevant proprietors for each of the four Māori boarding schools as reflected in the table below:

St Joseph’s	\$8.7m*
Hato Pāora	\$5.2m*
Te Aute	\$5.1m
Hukarere	\$1.0m
Total	\$20m

**Less payments of \$2,337,000 already made in 2021/22 to Hato Pāora and St Joseph’s less departmental administrative costs.*

- 9 **noted** that the available funding will not address longer-term challenges faced by the schools and their proprietors caused by aging building infrastructure which remain issues for them to resolve under the deeds of integration and consistent with the Education and Training Act 2020;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister of Finance’s approval to an in-principle expense transfer of up to \$5.139 million from 2021/22 to 2022/23 has been sought to ensure funding is available following the above decisions;

Communications

- 11 **noted** that te Minita Whanaketanga Māori will advise the Te Aute, Hukarere, Hato Pāora, and St Joseph’s trust boards and the heads of the Anglican and Catholic churches regarding the government’s investment allocation decision following Cabinet confirmation.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Attendance (see over)

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Aupito Williams Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC

