

# Summary:

## Consultation on network management: priorities for National and Regional Statements and new network management regulations for licensed early childhood services

### The new network management function

From 1 February 2023 if you want to operate a new licensed early childhood service you will need network management approval from the Minister of Education before you apply for licensing.

The details for network management approval are set out in sections 17 and 18 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).

There are two key parts to network management that an applicant must demonstrate:

1. That there is a need for a new service of the type and location you are offering
2. That you are suitable, including being fit and proper, and capable to provide a service and have sufficient finances.

### Proposals to implement the new network management function for licensed early childhood services

We are seeking your feedback on two key areas to finalise the policy for network management:

1. Priorities for National and Regional Statements
2. Policy for new regulations

Proposal	Description
<b>1. Priorities for National and Regional Statement</b>	<p>In consultation last year the sector supported the introduction of national and regional statements that would outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Priorities for licensed early childhood education services</li><li>2. Data and information on supply, forecast growth, demand and need for licensed early childhood services</li><li>3. Any other additional information that will help potential applicants apply for network management approval</li></ol> <p>We are proposing the following priorities for licensed early childhood services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Māori bilingual and immersion services (that are not excluded from the requirement to seek network management approval*)</li><li>• Hapū/iwi-owned services</li><li>• Services with a distinct Māori identity and culture</li><li>• Pacific bilingual and immersion services</li><li>• Pacific language and/or cultural services</li></ul>

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- Language immersion services (non-English/Māori/Pacific)
  - Services well-equipped for learning support needs
  - Services well-equipped for migrants and former refugees
  - Services planned to operate on a new school site
  - Organisations funded with Targeted Assistance for Participation (TAP)

Services applying in areas of under-provision (or where there is likely to be under-provision due to population growth) may still be approved despite not meeting the priorities.

*\* Ministerial approval has been given to exclude kōhanga reo and some other types of Māori immersion services from the requirement to seek network management approval. This exemption is still going through the legislative process. More information on this can be found on the [network management](#) webpage.*

<https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/running-a-service/network-management-for-licensed-early-childhood-services>

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## **2. Policy for new regulations**

Network management will have its own set of regulations.

We are consulting on five areas for the regulations:

1. Information required in applications for network management approval
2. Processing timeframes for the Secretary for Education and Minister of Education completing assessments and making decisions, as relevant
3. How official notice of network management approval will be given and its contents
4. Clear processes for:
  - The Secretary completing assessments of fit and proper status and financial viability
  - Applying to amend the network management approval as anticipated by the legislation, such as the expiry date or conditions set.
5. A register of network management approvals and revocations that would not be specified in these regulations

We are not seeking your feedback on proposed fees. This is because we already consulted the sector on the proposed fee in 2021 and there was support for this fee. The new regulations will set out a fee of \$500 (plus GST) for each application.

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### How to have your say

For a copy of the full discussion document on implementing the new network management function for licensed early childhood services, go to [Network-management-public-consultation-document-April-2022](#). If you want to provide feedback on the above proposals, you can also complete a survey at <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/ece/network-management-priorities-for-national-and-reg>

You can also send a more detailed written submission to either [Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz](mailto:Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz) or this postal address:

Early Learning Regulatory Review  
Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington 6140

The Ministry of Education requires feedback by **2 June 2022**.

If you have any questions about making a submission, or would like more information, please email [Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz](mailto:Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz)