

Home-based Sector Reform Implementation Group - Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Government has agreed to a number of changes to policy settings for home-based early childhood education (ECE), arising out of the Review of Home-based ECE (the Review).

The primary change is that the home-based ECE sector will become a fully qualified workforce, with all educators eventually being required to hold, or be actively working toward, a Level 4 ECE qualification or Te Ara Tuarua (the level 5 kōhanga reo qualification) or higher.

The Ministry of Education will provide the Minister of Education with further advice on a range of options as to when the Level 4 ECE qualification could be regulated, including how changes to funding criteria could be used to incentivise this shift.

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The overall objective of the Home-based Sector Reform Implementation Group is to provide a specialist perspective on the approach to phasing policy changes arising from the Review.

Scope

The Home-based Sector Reform Implementation Group's role will centre on providing advice on how to best support the sector to transition to a Level 4 ECE qualified workforce. The Group may also provide input into other policy work streams that have a particular focus on the home-based ECE sector.

Stages

The Review concluded in January 2019. The Minister has agreed to report back to Cabinet in February 2020 with further information on the financial and forecasting implications of changing the quality rate criteria.

This will involve more detailed policy development and analysis by the Ministry on the following:

- Timeframes around when the Level 4 ECE qualification will become a mandatory requirement
- How criteria for the standard and quality rate will be amended and sequenced, to incentivise the shift to a qualified workforce
- Potential financial and forecasting implications of changing quality rate criteria in 2020
- A grand-parenting framework for the new system, to recognise educators who hold a Level 3 ECE qualification
- If time permits, further work on the funding and licensing system for home-based ECE.

Principles for operation

The Group will have access to data, research and analysis, as appropriate around the specific topics under discussion. This will include material that is still at a conceptual stage of development.

The responsibilities of the Group members are:

- to act in an advisory role to the Ministry, by providing technical advice and analysis to the Ministry in order to inform and assist with progressing work arising out of the conclusion of the Review. The group will not be in a decision making role or be asked to produce a separate report
- to attend all scheduled meetings. When members cannot attend substitutes will not be able to be sent
- to undertake pre-meeting reading, if provided; engaging fully with the material at each meeting; and completing any post-meeting actions
- to maintain the confidentiality of information provided for their advice, comment and critique.

Disclosure

The Terms of Reference and Group membership will be published on the Education Conversation | Kōrero Mātauranga website, on the dedicated Review page.

The Ministry of Education will maintain oversight of the Group and is responsible for keeping the Minister informed of any relevant outcomes, risks and issues.

Meetings and administration

Meetings of the Group will be held at the Ministry's National Office, Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington. The Ministry will cover all costs directly associated with hosting the meetings, including transport, catering and any other actual and reasonable expenses associated with members' attendance. This does not include professional fees.