



Terms of reference for the Professional Learning and Development Advisory Group

Role and purpose

The Minister of Education has tasked the Ministry of Education with establishing a Professional Learning and Development Advisory Group to provide advice on the design of future professional learning and development (PLD) across the compulsory schooling sector.

The group will:

- establish a baseline of exemplary practice for PLD utilising the Best Evidence Synthesis;
- assess the level to which the current provision and contracting model of PLD supports the baseline of exemplary practice;
- identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current PLD;
- identify how the impact of PLD on teaching quality and student achievement can be most effectively measured both in terms of progress and improvement, and summative results;
- advise on what improvements should be made to the targeting of PLD to achieve a system-wide lift in student achievement; and
- provide advice on how changes could be implemented to achieve the maximum impact from expenditure on PLD.
- The group's initial work on identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the current PLD system will be completed by early 2014.

Nature and composition of the group

The Group will be chaired by Barbara Cavanagh, Principal of Albany Senior High School, and a member of the Ministerial Cross Sector Forum on Raising Achievement. Expert advice will be provided by Professor Helen Timperley of the University of Auckland.

The Group will comprise representatives from professional associations who have the range of skills and experience to advise on the design of future PLD. The Ministry has invited the following sector bodies to nominate representatives to be members of the Advisory Group:

- Post Primary Teachers Association
- New Zealand School Trustees Association
- Secondary Principals Association New Zealand
- New Zealand Principals Federation
- New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa
- Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools
- Te Rūnanganui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori
- Te Rūnanganui o Ngā Kura a Iwi
- New Zealand Area Schools Association.



Once appointed, the Advisory Group will work to the collective purpose and mission of advising on the design of future professional learning and development (PLD) across the compulsory schooling sector.

Objective

Quality teaching and education leadership raises achievement. Professional learning and development must be aimed at driving up that quality, and reflect that in significantly improving student outcomes. The Government's objective is to support the development of a highly capable profession, and therefore a professional learning and development system that builds the skills of teachers and education leaders, which in turn delivers measurable gains for students. Teachers and education leaders should be able to access quality PLD to improve their practice.

Meetings

The Advisory Group will meet approximately 10 times a year. Members may undertake additional work outside the formal meetings.

Resources

The Advisory Group will be supported by a Ministry of Education secretariat. The group will need to engage with the Transition Board charged with overseeing the transition from the existing New Zealand Teachers Council to the proposed Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand. The secretariat will provide the range of organisational support and resources required by the group to carry out its functions.

The Minister of Education may provide guidance to the Advisory Group.

Confidentiality and Official Information

Members will not disclose any confidential information or material provided to the group by officials. The Official Information Act 1982 will apply to the activities of the group. Agreements of confidentiality will apply.

Public engagement

Any media statements made from the Advisory Group will be made by the Chair with the approval of the Minister of Education.

Timeframe

The group will initially be established for a 2-year period.

Good faith

Members of the Advisory Group are expected to act in good faith and on a 'no surprises' basis.