

Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): ERO Leadership Partners initiative

Date	27 March 2019
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M19-11
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
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**Minister of
Education**

It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** ERO's proposal to investigate and establish a Leaders Partners initiative for implementation in 2019/2020.



Attachments:

**Education Review Office (ERO):
ERO Leadership Partners initiative**



Comments:

Minister's Office to complete

Noted

Seen

Approved

Referred to:

Date signed by Minister: 3.4.19

Our Ref: M19-11

26 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

ERO Leadership Partners initiative

Purpose

1. As you are aware ERO has an ongoing programme of transformation in its Review methodology and practice. One of ERO's priorities is to enhance sector leaders' confidence and trust in education evaluation. This paper is to inform you about our proposed Leadership Partners initiative that will provide successful school leaders with the opportunity to join review teams and enhance their understanding of external evaluation.

Leadership Partners

2. Over recent months I have met with the leadership of many schooling sector groups, such as SPANZ, NZPF, Schools Trustees Association, Te Akaatea, the Association of Pacific Principals and others including unions. While there is widespread support from these organisations for ERO's work, there has also been discussion about how successful school leaders could contribute to our review processes.
3. Because of these discussions I would now like to develop greater opportunities for senior leaders from the sector to join review teams as partners in the external evaluation process. This initiative will be in addition to ERO's current system of seconding principal and senior leaders as Review Officers.
4. The proposed Leadership Partners initiative will provide a unique professional learning opportunity for the leaders who participate. It will provide leaders with greater insights into school review processes, extend their understanding of external evaluation practice, and the complementarity of external and internal evaluation. The initiative also creates the potential for leaders to develop insights into their own school through the opportunity of contributing to the review of others.
5. ERO sees potential benefits from having current practitioners adding valuable insights to reviews while developing better understanding of our processes. Building strong enduring partnerships and networks, along with school leaders sharing their expertise across the sector, will enhance the review process for both schools and ERO. It may also encourage some school leaders to see education evaluation as a possible employment pathway for themselves or senior colleagues, and should address some of the misrepresentation in the sector around our approach to school review.

6. To progress this initiative further, we intend to work with representatives from sector groups to explore the proposal, and to establish agreed protocols and practices for implementation, including training for potential Leadership Partners.
7. This establishment work will be completed by July 2019 and we propose to implement the initiative in the 2019/2020 financial year.
8. We note that some change may be imminent because of the review of Tomorrow's Schools. Nevertheless, initial work undertaken on this initiative could be picked up within any new arrangements for education evaluation, and would provide the same benefits to the system.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** ERO's proposal to investigate and establish a Leadership Partners initiative for implementation in 2019/2020.

noted



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

3 / 4 / 19