

AIDE MEMOIRE



To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From: Ellen MacGregor-Reid, Deputy Secretary, Early Learning and Student Achievement
Date: 6 December 2017
Subject: NCEA review – bringing Terms of Reference to Cabinet

Purpose

1. This revised aide memoire supports you to bring an oral item to Cabinet on 11 December, seeking approval to delegate Power to Act to the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) in relation to the Terms of Reference for, and high-level approach to, the review of the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA).
2. It also outlines changes made to the Terms of Reference following stakeholder consultation.

Speaking points

3. In line with our manifesto commitments and regulatory requirements, I have announced that over the next year, the Ministry of Education will review NCEA, starting with the release of Terms of Reference for the review before Christmas this year.
4. The Terms of Reference will be high-level, and outline my priorities for the review – including identifying ways to reduce overassessment and teacher and student workload, and reconsidering how NCEA Level 1 is structured.
5. The Ministry of Education has been working with the education agencies and key stakeholders to prepare a draft Terms of Reference, and to identify an approach to review NCEA over the next 12 months. On 5 and 6 December, the Ministry hosted forums with some of these key stakeholders – including representatives of the education sector, employers and industry, young people and the wider community – who contributed to the Terms of Reference.
6. In order for these to be released before schools break for the year I am seeking Cabinet's agreement to CBC having Power to Act at its meeting of 13 December, to:
 - a. approve the Terms of Reference for the NCEA review
 - b. agree to the public announcement of the Terms of Reference
 - c. agree to the high-level approach proposed for the NCEA review.
7. I intend to release the Terms of Reference on 14 December, subject to CBC's approval.

AIDE MEMOIRE

Annex 1 – Tracked Terms of Reference following stakeholder feedback

See next page.