



Report: ECE reform Cabinet paper for lodging

To:	Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	19/03/2025	Deadline:	20/03/2025
Security Level:	Confidential	Priority:	High
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Why are we sending this to you?

- This report provides you with two versions of the ECE reform Cabinet paper, *Paper 2: Response to the Early Childhood Education Regulatory Sector Review*.
- This Cabinet paper will accompany the Ministry for Regulation's Cabinet paper: *Paper 1: Early Childhood Regulatory Sector Review: recommendations and next steps*.

What action do we need, by when?

- To meet Cabinet timeframes, the ECE reform Cabinet paper must be lodged by 10am tomorrow Thursday 20 March, in time for consideration by the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP Committee) on 25 March.
- Seek agreement from the Minister of Education to submit the paper EXP, as it seeks changes to the Education and Training Act which sits within her delegations.
- Please return the signed report by 20 March.

Key facts, issues and questions

- The ECE reform Cabinet paper seeks policy decisions on the response to the Ministry for Regulation's ECE regulatory sector review.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- This report also provides you with a summary of departmental feedback and the resulting revisions that we have made to the Cabinet paper, as well as the Regulatory Impact Statement.

Alignment with Government priorities

1. This report aligns with Government priorities to improve the quality of regulation, reduce regulatory burden and costs to business, and deliver better public services.

Background

2. Departmental consultation on the ECE reform Cabinet paper, *Paper 2: Response to the Early Childhood Education Regulatory Sector Review*, was undertaken from 7 to 13 March.
9(2)(f)(iv)

3. 9(2)(f)(iv)

4. This report provides you with:

- 4.1. Revised ECE reform Cabinet paper (two versions are provided in **Annex 1 and 2**, these are described further in the following section),
- 4.2. Regulatory Impact Statements to accompany each Cabinet paper version, attached in **Annex 3 and 4**.
- 4.3. A summary of feedback and Cabinet paper revisions is provided in **Annex 5**.

9(2)(f)(iv)

5. 9(2)(f)(iv)

6. 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 6.1.

- 6.2.

- 6.3.

- 6.4.

7. 9(2)(f)(iv)

8. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 8.1. [REDACTED]
- 8.2. [REDACTED]
9. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
10. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 10.1. [REDACTED]
- 10.2. [REDACTED]
- 10.3. [REDACTED]
- 10.4. [REDACTED]
- 10.5. [REDACTED]
11. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
12. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 12.1. [REDACTED]
- 12.2. [REDACTED]

Assessment of the Regulatory Impact Statement

13. The Ministry's Regulatory Impact Assessment Quality Assurance panel (the QA panel) have considered the Regulatory Impact Statement (**Annex 3**) and assessed it as failing to meet Cabinet's quality assurance criteria for impact analysis. The QA panel advised that this assessment corresponds to the tight constraints on the options considered, the limited analysis of impacts, cost and benefits, and lack of consultation on the proposals imposed by the timeframe. This has been included in the Cabinet paper.

Risks

14. There are a range of risks associated with these proposals, including:
- 14.1. The impact of the timing and pace of this work on elements of good regulatory stewardship, including options analysis, impact analysis, cost-benefit analysis and due diligence. We will continue to undertake and incorporate these elements wherever possible.

14.2. 9(2)(f)(iv)

14.3. 9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

15. 9(2)(f)(iv)

16. 9(2)(f)(iv)

16.1.

16.2.

16.3.

17. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps

18. The paper seeks changes to the Education and Training Act, which sits under the Minister of Education's delegation. We therefore recommend that you seek her agreement before submitting this paper to EXP.
19. We will provide you with talking points for the EXP Committee meeting by Friday 21 March.
20. The immediate next steps for the ECE reform Cabinet paper are summarised below:

Milestones for the ECE reform Cabinet paper	Date/s
Lodge Cabinet paper	20 March
EXP Committee meeting	25 March
Cabinet meeting	31 March
Issue drafting instructions to PCO	1 April

Annexes

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: ECE reform Cabinet paper 9(2)(f)(iv)
– Paper 2: Response to the Early Childhood Education
Regulatory Sector Review

¹ 9(2)(f)(iv)

- Annex 2: ECE reform Cabinet paper 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]
[redacted] – Paper 2: Response to the Early Childhood Education Regulatory Sector Review
- Annex 3: Regulatory Impact Statement to accompany Annex 1 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]
- Annex 4: Regulatory Impact Statement to accompany Annex 2 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]
- Annex 5: Summary of consultation feedback and changes made to the Cabinet paper

Recommended actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that this report provides a summary of consultation feedback on *Paper 2: Response to the Early Childhood Education Regulatory Sector Review* and the changes that have been made to the Cabinet paper ahead of lodging;

Noted

- b. 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

Noted

- c. **agree** to seek the Minister of Education's agreement to submit this paper to the EXP committee;

Agree / Disagree

- d. **agree** to lodge by Thursday 20 March, for EXP Committee consideration on 25 March, either:

- i. The ECE reform Cabinet paper 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

Agree / Disagree

OR

- ii. The ECE reform Cabinet paper 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

Agree / Disagree

Proactive Release:

- e. **agree** that this report is not released until final Budget and Cabinet decisions are made on the ECE reform work, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



John Brooker

General Manager

Te Pou Kaupapahere

19/03/2025



Hon David Seymour

Associate Minister of Education

24/3/25