



## Report: Statement of Government Policy engagement

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	26 September 2024	Deadline:	30 September 2024
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	High
From:	Joshua Thurston Senior Policy Manager	Phone:	04 463 8894
Drafter	9(2)(a)	METIS No:	1336770

### Why are we sending this to you?

- You have been working with officials to develop a draft Statement of Government Policy (SoGP) relating to Teaching Council functions.
- You have asked for options and timelines for wider engagement on the draft SoGP.

### What action do we need, by when?

- We are seeking your decision on whether you would like to:
  - Proceed with consultation with only the Teaching Council, as required by legislation, or
  - Engage with selected sector experts, and/or
  - Consult with the wider sector either through the Teaching Council or the Ministry.
- We are seeking your decision by Monday 30 September, and are available to discuss this at an officials meeting.

### Key facts, issues and questions

- As part of issuing a Statement of Government Policy (SoGP), you are required to consult with the Teaching Council.
- Broadening consultation will require a longer timeframe than previously planned. This means wider engagement will delay the Teaching Council having regard to a final Statement of Government Policy in their work.
- However, broader consultation may allow for buy-in from stakeholders and a better outcome with a stronger SoGP that has sector support. It also may mean the Teaching Council can progress work more quickly once the SoGP has been issued, as sector engagement will help to identify challenges and opportunities early.
- This paper provides you with options for engagement, and the potential risks and trade-offs of the different pathways.

## Alignment with Government priorities

- 1 This report aligns with Priority Four of your Education Priorities, Improved teacher training: Developing the workforce of the future, including leadership development pathways.

## Background

- 2 You have been working with officials to develop a Statement of Government Policy (SoGP) relating to Teaching Council's (the Council) functions(METIS 1335508 refers).
- 3 Officials advised you that to keep work moving quickly, the SoGP had been written without sector consultation, and there was a risk that it may be negatively received by some parts of the sector when it is made public, as some stakeholders may feel they have been cut out of the development process.
- 4 In discussion with officials, you asked for advice on a wider consultation process. There are three main options, you can either:
  - **Option One:** Formally consult the Teaching Council only, **or**
  - **Option Two A:** Engage with selected sector experts, **and/or**
  - **Option Two B:** wider sector engagement either through the Teaching Council or the Ministry.
- 5 The details of how each of these options would progress are included below. A full timeline for each option can be found at Annex 1. Options Two A and B are not mutually exclusive.

## Consultation and engagement options

### Option One: Consult Teaching Council only

- 6 You may choose to proceed as planned without any sector engagement, and to only consult the Council as you are required to do when issuing any SoGP<sup>1</sup>. This option allows you to have the SoGP finalised, gazetted, and in force in November.
- 7 This gives the Council the most time to take the SoGP into account as part of their work, particularly in refreshing the Teaching Standards. The Council has paused work on refreshing the Standards while they await your feedback.
- 8 If you choose to proceed with this option, we recommend giving the Teaching Council a month for consultation to provide an opportunity for the Council to engage with any sector groups or their members as they see fit in developing their response.
- 9 This would still result in issuing a SoGP by the end of November. In the final two weeks of consultation, we will also undertake concurrent Ministerial and Agency consultation on your draft Cabinet paper and SoGP to ensure the November Cabinet date can be achieved.
- 10 If you choose to proceed with this option, we have attached the final draft SoGP at Annex Three and a letter at Annex Four to send to the Council setting out the process and next steps for issuing the SoGP.

---

<sup>1</sup> Education and Training Act, Section 482(2)  
Security Level: In-Confidence  
METIS No. 1336770

### **Option Two A: Expert engagement**

- 11 You could proceed with a short 'sector experts' engagement period, which would still allow you to issue the SoGP by the end of the year, although timelines are condensed and are based on making the final Cabinet meeting of 2024, as outlined in Annex One.
- 12 This would allow the Teaching Council to progress their work on refreshing the Teaching Standards, while having regard to your SoGP, from the beginning of 2025. Inviting expert feedback will give greater confidence that the final SoGP will support quality teaching and learning. This option is not mutually exclusive with Option Two B.
- 13 You could also informally consult with the Teaching Council concurrently with expert engagement, which could allow us to shorten formal consultation if expert engagement takes longer than anticipated.
- 14 If you proceed with this approach, the Ministry recommends that you engage with selected experts from your Ministerial Advisory Group, your newly established Māori Advisory Group, as well as a limited number of other experts.
- 15 A list of possible sector experts you could choose to consult is attached at Annex Two. These experts have been identified as individuals with relevant expertise and interest in teacher education, teaching standards, professional development and regulation of the teaching profession.
- 16 It is important to note that none of the identified international experts have been 'pre-screened' or asked about their interest in working with the New Zealand Government. If you choose to follow this option, the Ministry will reach out to the individuals you select and invite them to share their views. They may or may not wish to participate.
- 17 If you choose this option, you may also indicate any other domestic or international experts who you wish to invite to engage in consultation, and the Ministry will include them in consultation processes (subject to their agreement).

### **Option Two B: Full sector engagement**

- 18 This option is not mutually exclusive with Option Two A. In the timelines we have assumed you would incorporate views from experts before wider sector engagement.
- 19 This option will enable maximum sector engagement with the SoGP. This would likely mean greater buy in from stakeholders, and more support for the work that the Teaching Council will be doing to implement your direction included in the SoGP.
- 20 Increased sector engagement also means that the SoGP is more likely to focus on critical policy priorities to improve quality teaching and learning outcomes than if developed more narrowly. However, it could also mean sector groups seek to significantly expand the scope of the Statement. We will provide advice on this following any engagement.
- 21 Full sector engagement will have the biggest impact on proposed timelines. In particular, we note you have previously indicated that the SoGP could be put forward as a Government Quarter 4 Action Plan item, and full sector engagement would mean the SoGP could not be completed in Quarter 4. While the Action Plan has not yet been announced, this may influence your preferred timeline.
- 22 There are two options for undertaking sector engagement:
  - a. Through your formal consultation with the Teaching Council, you formally ask them to consult on your draft SoGP on your behalf, or,

- b. You consult with the Teaching Council and concurrently the Ministry would undertake sector engagement.

#### *Engagement through the Council*

- 23 This option would allow the Council to consult on your behalf and report back to you with one set of consolidated feedback, including their own views.
- 24 While the Teaching Council does not have to consult the sector, they would likely do so as part of your consultation with them, depending on available time. You would have limited control over who the Council consults, though you could indicate your views in a letter. All the feedback would also be filtered through the Teaching Council under this option, though as an independent professional regulator we are confident they would engage genuinely and provide you with fulsome advice.

#### *Engagement through the Ministry*

- 25 This option would provide you with greater oversight of engagement as it will be run through the Ministry. The Ministry can target key sector bodies and organisations that you want to be involved, but we would also propose engaging broadly to capture diverse perspectives.
- 26 This option may lead to a duplication of effort as the Council may also choose to engage the sector in developing their feedback on the draft SoGP. It could also be challenging for the Ministry to run a full sector consultation in the timeframes noting other reform priorities underway in Initial Teacher Education.

### **Risks**

- 27 It is likely that your draft SoGP will be widely shared once engagement starts. It is likely to attract some attention, including from the media. Some parts of the sector may be concerned at the draft, however engagement, either directly or through the Teaching Council, provides an opportunity to understand and respond to diverse views.
- 28 A further risk is a potential desire to significantly broaden the scope of the SoGP through both expert and/or broader consultation. We have currently prepared a relatively narrow, though detailed, SoGP; a risk with expanding the scope is that it dilutes the focus away from key priorities. However, feedback is also likely to enable better identification of agreed critical areas. We will provide you with advice on the scope and final draft wording following engagement, and as the timeline below shows, we propose to update you on engagement throughout the process.

### **Next Steps**

- 29 Officials are seeking your decision to proceed with one of the proposed consultation options. Once you have indicated which option you intend to follow, and which experts you wish to include, the Ministry will immediately begin engagement.

## Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you either:

- a. **Option One:** agree to proceed as planned, consulting only the Teaching Council, and sign the attached letter at Annex Four

Agree / Disagree

Or

- b. **Option Two A:** agree to proceed with a short 'sector expert' engagement, and if yes:
- i. agree to indicate the experts you wish to engage with in this paper, and any other experts you consider should be included

Agree / Disagree

AND / OR

- c. **Option Two B:** agree to a full sector consultation process, and if so:
- i. agree to run the sector consultation through the Teaching Council

Agree / Disagree

OR

- ii. agree to run the sector consultation through the Ministry

Agree / Disagree

**Proactive Release:**

- d. agree that the Ministry of Education release this paper once it has been considered by you with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Joshua Thurston  
Acting Senior Policy Manager  
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy

26/09/2024

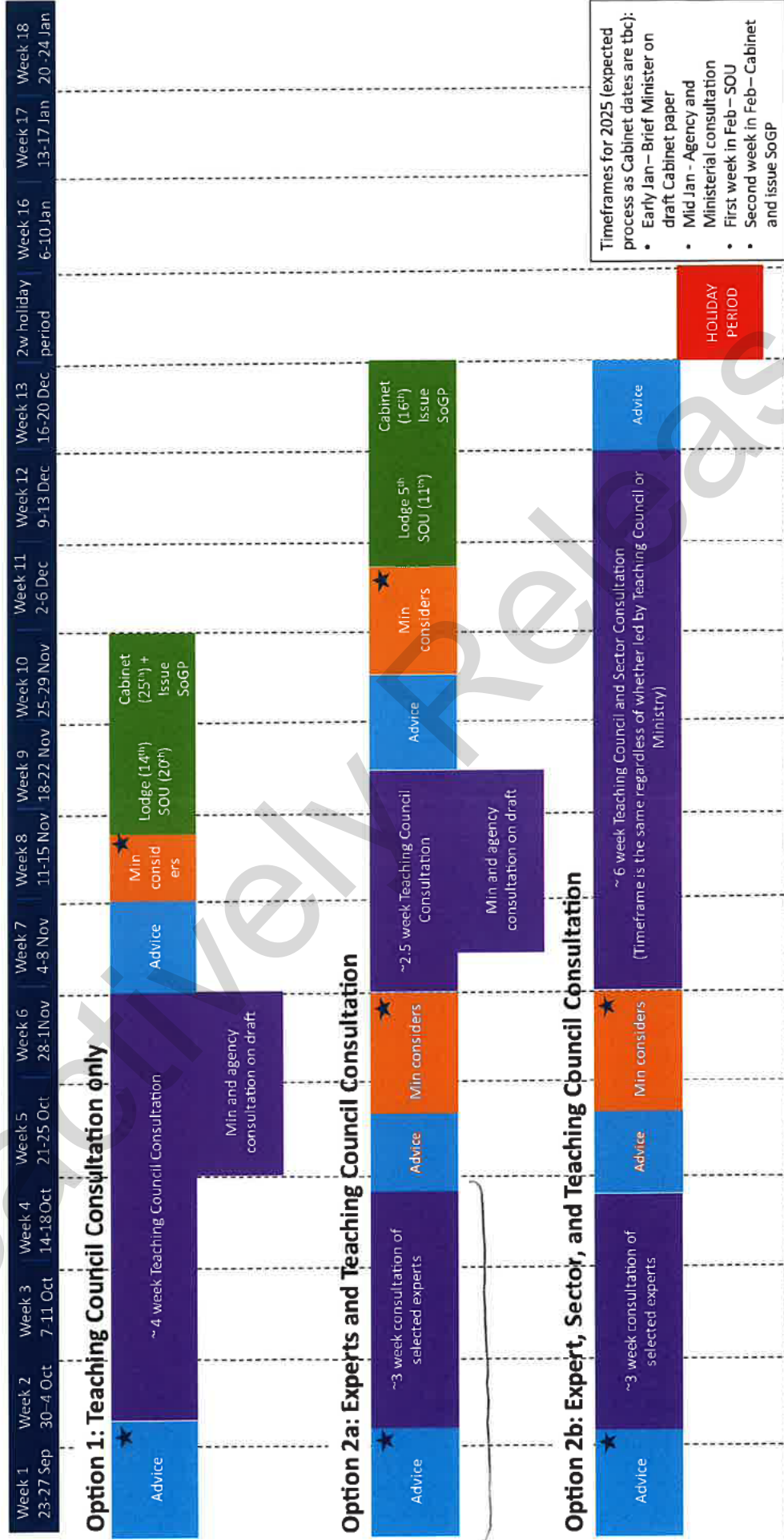


Hon Erica Stanford  
Minister of Education

27/9/24

# Annex 1: Timelines of Consultation Options

## SoGP Consultation Option Timelines ★ Minister decision required to proceed



## Annex 2: Potential external experts

<p><b>Curriculum Ministerial Advisory Group members</b></p>	<p>9(2)(a)</p>
<p><b>Māori Education Advisory Group members (recommend consulting as a Group)</b></p>	<p>9(2)(a)</p>
<p><b>Independent New Zealand Experts</b></p> <p>9(2)(a)</p>	<p>9(2)(a)</p>

International Experts	9(2)(a)
9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)

Proactively Released