



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



Summary:

Early Childhood Education Funding Review for consultation

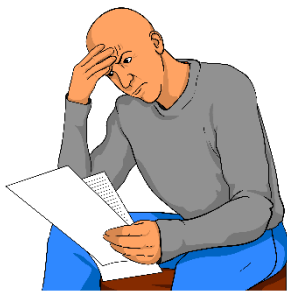


Published: July 2026

Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



What is in here

Page number:



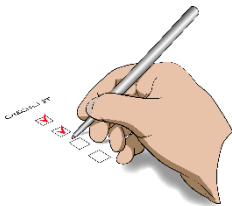
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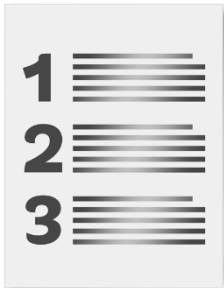


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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read **summary** is from the **Ministerial Advisory Group**.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the main document
- tells you the main ideas.



Here the **Ministerial Advisory Group**:

- is a group of people that know a lot about **early childhood education**
- was set up to look at funding for early childhood education
- is **independent** of the Government.





Here **early childhood education** is for children before they go to school from:

- birth

until

- they are 6 years old.



Children do not have to go to early childhood education places.



Here **independent** means the Government does not control what the Ministerial Advisory Group does.



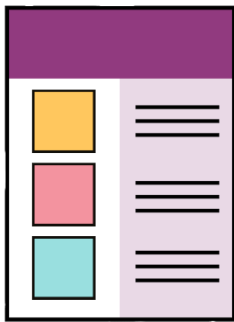
This Easy Read is about what the Ministerial Advisory Group found out in its **review** about early childhood education **funding**.



A **review** is when something is looked at closely to see what is happening.



Here **funding** is the money the Government pays to support early childhood education.



In this Easy Read:

- the Ministerial Advisory Group is called the **MAG**
- early childhood education is called **ECE**.



This Easy Read is a summary of the full **public consultation** document.



A **public consultation** means asking people what they think about something.

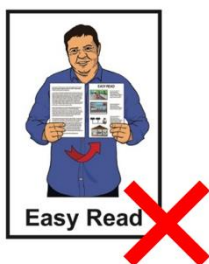


It supports you to have your say on how the Government funds ECE here in Aotearoa New Zealand.



You can read the full consultation document at this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrycfuan>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

About ECE



ECE places need to be **licensed** to be able to give young children:

- education services
- care services.



Here **licensed** means that the people / places:

- are allowed to give ECE services

and

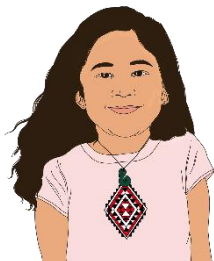
- follow the rules the Government has made about ECE.





ECE places can be:

- kindergartens / kindies
- home based services
- hospital based services
- puna reo / Māori ECE early learning services
- Pacific early learning services.



The Government spends more than 3.1 billion dollars on ECE each year.



The Honourable David Seymour is the **Associate Minister** of Education for the Government.



Here the **Associate Minister** is a member of parliament who supports the Minister of Education.



David Seymour appointed / chose the MAG to give independent advice to the Government.



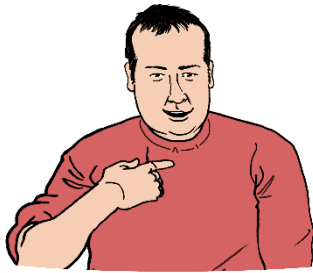
The advice is about how the Government is funding ECE.



The MAG want to hear what people think about the work it has done so far.



They want to hear what changes you think could make a difference.



This is your chance:

- to find out the kind of changes to ECE funding the MAG are thinking about
- to tell the MAG:
 - how this could affect you
 - if you are happy with the changes they are thinking should be made.



Main problems the MAG found about ECE funding



The MAG heard from more than 2 thousand people.



They used different ways to find out how government funding of ECE is working now.

The MAG found 3 main problems.

Problem 1



Whānau / families cannot always get the:

- amount of time they want at an ECE place
- kind of ECE they want for their tamariki / children.





Problem 2

Some ECE places work better than others.



This can mean children do not get all the things they need when going to an ECE place.



Problem 3

Often there is not enough information about ECE for:

- the Government
- whānau / families.





This means people do not understand how important ECE is to:

- tamariki / children
- whānau / family
- society / the community.



What areas could change to fix these problems



So far the MAG has found 7 areas where it believes change could make a difference.



Area 1

More of the ECE funding could be spent to support:



- tamariki / children with more learning needs
- whānau / families with different needs
- communities with different needs.





Area 2

Changing the way **fees assistance** works to support families who do not have enough money to use ECE places.



Here **fees assistance** is where the Government pay some of the fees / costs for children to use ECE services.



Area 3

Changing how ECE **subsidies** supporting all tamariki / children are used.



Here **subsidies** means the money the government pays to support families so their children can go to an ECE place like fees assistance.



This means changing how:

- many hours of ECE are now being paid for by the Government
- funding works for home based care.



This will support:

- working parents
- whānau / families.



Area 4

Making things easier to understand like:

- the teacher **funding bands**
- what things affect how much funding an ECE place gets.





Here a **funding band** means how much money an ECE place gets to do its work.

Area 5



Thinking more about how government funding pays for people working in ECE.

Area 6



Have better rules about:

- information about ECE
- reporting / saying what is happening in ECE.





Area 7

Changing how ECE gets funded so it:

- works for ECE
- is easier to:
 - understand
 - use.



The MAG has thought of ways to do things better in all of these areas.



This does not mean the MAG will make **recommendations** for change in all these areas.



Here **recommendations** means the things the MAG would like the Government to do to make ECE funding work better.



Your feedback will support the MAG to decide what advice they should give to the Government.



The Government will make the decisions about any changes.

What this work could mean



The MAG recommendations must not cost the Government more money when funding ECE.



If a recommendation needs more money to be spent then the extra money needs to be saved somewhere else.



If the Government decides to do the MAG recommendations this will make things better for:

- whānau / families
- providers of ECE services
- people who work in ECE.





Different **options** will affect different groups.

Options are the different choices you have when making a decision about something.



The options to change ECE funding include options for:

- spending
- saving.



You will also need to tell the MAG in your feedback what you think about these 2 things.

Important questions to think about



The MAG want to know what you think about funding ECE services.



Here are some questions to think about.



You do not have to think about all the questions.



Do you think the 7 areas are the right areas to make a difference to ECE funding?



Do you think there should be other areas as well?



Think about the changes being looked at.



Do you:

- agree with the changes?
- do not agree with the changes?



How might these changes affect:

- you
- your whānau / family?



Is there anything else you would like the MAG to think about?

How to have your say



You can find out more about the ECE funding work the MAG is doing.



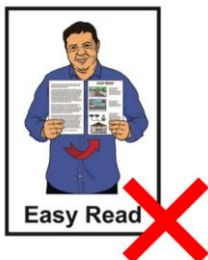
There is information about what the MAG has:

- heard
- learned
- is thinking about.



You can read the full consultation document at this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrycfuan>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



You can complete the MAG online **survey** to:

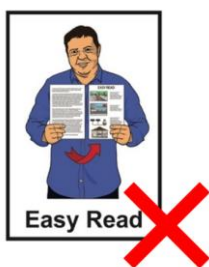
- answer questions
- give your feedback.



Here a **survey** is when you answer questions to tell us what you think about the MAG recommendations.

Find the survey at this **website**:

<https://education.surveymonkey.com/r/VQ83P35>



This survey is **not** in Easy Read.



You may want to do the survey with the support of someone you trust.



You can give us your feedback up to **6 August 2026.**



You do not need to answer every question.

You can:



- say what you think about any of the MAG recommendations

or



- ask other questions you think are important.

More information

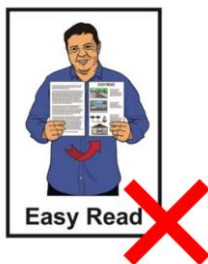


The MAG will use all the information it gets to make recommendations to the Government by the end of this year.



Find out more information about the MAG work on this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/37r3xmm8>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



Email any questions you have to:

ECE.FundingReview@education.govt.nz



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

This information is from the Ministerial Advisory Group.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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