

ECE funding system review FAQs

Is the MAG prioritising affordability over quality?

Affordability and quality are both key considerations for the MAG.

Quality is one of the three major problems we have identified: variation in the quality of ECE means it may not deliver all the benefits it can for children and whānau, particularly those who could benefit most.

Affordable fees is also an important consideration. The second of the three major problems we've identified is that some families face barriers to get the amount and type of ECE they want for their tamariki – for many people this is cost.

The third problem concerns the quality of information available to parents, communities, providers and the government to support them to make decisions about ECE.

Is the consultation document your advice to Government and how/when will these changes be implemented?

No, this is a consultation document, highlighting areas where the MAG thinks change could make a difference and options within these. These are not our final recommendations and, even when we provide advice later in 2026, decisions will be made by Government.

How did the MAG identify the major problems in the current funding system, and develop the areas where change could make a difference?

The potential options for change we are consulting on were developed in response to what we heard about problems and issues with the current funding system earlier in our work. We met with or heard from families, communities, the sector and business. What we learned, along with research and analysis, informed our thinking.

Can the MAG meet my group/organisation?

The consultation is open to everyone, and anyone can attend the online hui – you can register to attend [on our consultation page](#) and we'll add a recording of one meeting so you can watch later.

Feedback on areas for possible change and options within these, or anything else you want to share with the MAG, is best provided through the consultation survey and written feedback.

We know people see the issues differently and we welcome your views and ideas.

Why are you meeting some groups not others during consultation?

We held 56 meetings during our earlier engagement phase and it's simply not possible to do that again.

The small number of groups we are meeting are mainly those we haven't met with yet or where we see a need to spend more time talking through the consultation document and where it's come from.

The important thing right now is for people to take part in the consultation – your views will help shape what happens next, including our final advice and recommendations.

Are you giving the Minister the advice he wants?

The Minister provided clear Terms of Reference, and we are working to those.

We've kept the Minister updated on our work and our progress; however, our advice and recommendations are not complete. That's what we're working on now and will finalise after consultation.

Why wasn't my group/organisation involved in developing these options?

MAG has drawn on the information, advice and perspectives shared during our engagement last year and earlier this year. We heard from more than 2000 people and we really appreciate the insight people and groups up and down the country brought to that engagement.

In the past 12 months we've also worked through a significant amount of existing research, data and information. We've also commissioned additional information and analysis. The consultation document released this month reflects our thinking so far in response to the body of information we now have. It does not present predetermined conclusions. Nor does it represent decisions that have already been made. Instead, it outlines a range of possible options for change and asks New Zealanders what they think.

Why is the consultation period so short?

The consultation provides more than five weeks of input. It's probably shorter than some groups may want, but it also allows time after consultation for the MAG to understand the feedback and develop recommendations.

How much time will it take for me to provide feedback – it's a long consultation document?

The survey is estimated to take around half an hour to complete – it will take more or less time depending on the amount of detail you want to provide and whether you want to address all parts of the survey. We are very happy to receive responses to only some of the questions in the survey.

An email submission is also an option.