

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



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Sharon Scurr

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Tēnā koe Sharon

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2022 about literacy education in New Zealand. I appreciate you taking the time to write and share your resource. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to support tamariki and young people in Aotearoa.

The Government is committed to ensuring our learners have the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed, and strong literacy skills are an important part of this.

We know that our education system is not yet supporting all children and young people to succeed in literacy. The Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy seeks to address persistent inequities in the system and declines in achievement for some groups, including children with dyslexia. The Strategy's Action Plans will cater for the diverse needs of all ākonga and support them to gain the skills they need through their learning pathway. It includes a particular focus on promptly identifying those learners who need additional support. Changes will take time, but the Ministry of Education is already undertaking key pieces of work that are progressing the aims of the Strategy.

The Ministry is trialling three literacy and communication packages this year for ākonga in Years 2-8 who need additional support with learning to read. These packages are diagnostic, explicit, systematic and cumulative. They build phonemic awareness, understanding of the alphabetic principle, fluency and comprehension skills. These are being independently evaluated and will inform the Strategy going forward.

As you will appreciate, it is important we equip teachers with up-to-date and evidence-based knowledge and skills. A Common Practice Model for teachers will be developed, which will outline the supported principles and pedagogies for literacy and communication from early learning through to the end of secondary school. The Common Practice Model will create greater consistency and underpin both Initial Teacher Education and professional learning and development for practicing teachers.

If you would like to know more about the Strategy, you are welcome to contact the Ministry's team at literacy.communication.maths@education.govt.nz.

I hope this information assures you of the Government's ongoing commitment to improve literacy outcomes for all ākonga.

Thank you again for writing, and I wish you all the very best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tinetti'.

Hon Jan Tinetti

Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)