

19 August 2022

Consultation on Gazetting Te Whāriki

We are pleased to provide comment to the Ministry of Education on Gazetting Te Whāriki.

About Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand (ECNZ) is an Incorporated Society of members committed to high quality early childhood education for every child. Established in 1963, the organisation is an influential leader in shaping today's early childhood sector through advocacy, policy, tertiary education qualifications and professional development programmes.

We advocate for early childhood education services and the teachers | kaiako who provide education to thousands of infants, toddlers, and children | tamariki. Our members are drawn from a diverse range of community-based, privately-owned, kindergarten and homebased early childhood education services.

Te Rito Maioha is also a registered Private Training Establishment (PTE) with the highest Category One rating for a tertiary provider. We are accredited and approved by New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to deliver a range of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate qualifications (levels 4-9), including specialist teacher | kaiako education, both nationally and internationally.

We are committed to achieving high-quality teaching and learning by:

- increasing teachers' | kaiako knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Aotearoa New Zealand's dual cultural heritage;
- providing access to online blended delivery of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate tertiary education programmes leading to recognised and approved qualifications;
- promoting quality teaching and leadership through ongoing professional learning and development programmes;
- providing a range of unique resources and services to our members.

General Comments

We agree that the quality of teaching practice across the ECE sector needs to improve so all tamariki and their whānau have an equitably good experience.

Expand the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework to include the full framework of the principles, strands, goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki

Do you agree that licensed early childhood services (not including ngā kōhanga reo affiliated with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust) and certified playgroups should be required to implement the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki?

We agree that ECE services and certificated playgroups should be required to implement the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki. Gazetting Te Whāriki would create clear expectations that every child experiences a rich and empowering curriculum and would support formative assessment.

If there is a transitional period of six months from when the full framework of Te Whāriki is published in the New Zealand Gazette to it becoming a legal requirement, would services be able to meet this timeframe?

While ECE services with fully qualified kaiako should be able to engage with and use the goals and learning outcomes, we agree with ERO's observation that support will be required for all services to do this well.

We note that it will take time to first understand what is required and then collect documented evidence. Given that many services will be closed over the Christmas / summer holidays (some for up to 6 weeks), if the gazetting occurs in October as planned, the transitional period could be effectively shortened to 4 "working" months. This may have an impact on evidence collection so both the Ministry and ERO will need to take this into consideration when assessing compliance. We recommend that the transitional period is lengthened to allow kaiako to have a break over the summer.

We are concerned that certificated playgroups and puna reo not affiliated to or supported by a larger organisation may struggle to meet this requirement as there is not the requirement for ECE qualified kaiako to be present to support parents in curriculum planning and delivery.

What support (if any) will services need to make sure that they meet the standard if implementing the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki becomes a requirement?

Services will need guidance and exemplars as well as clear expectations from ERO in what they are looking for.

We are pleased to see from the consultation document that the Ministry is planning to add additional resources to Te Whāriki Online as well as offering a webinar and a live Q&A session. Depending on demand, additional Q&A sessions may be required – possibly these could be run out of Te Mahau regional offices.

Do you have any other comments on including the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki within the legal curriculum framework?

ITE programmes will need to ensure graduating students have a full understanding of the goals and learning outcomes and how the learning outcomes will be assessed to demonstrate children's learning.

Include a te ao Māori interpretation of the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki

Do you agree with including a te ao Māori interpretation of the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki in the legal curriculum framework for early childhood education services and playgroups licensed or certified by the Ministry of Education to use?

As a bicultural organisation, we agree with including a te ao Māori interpretation of the goals and learning outcomes. As drafted, and shared in the online hui, the interpretation is clear, concise and easy to engage with.

What resources and support (if any) will you need to implement te ao Māori interpretation of Te Whāriki?

Again, there must be good professional development opportunities for both qualified kaiako and unqualified educators to engage with.

Do you have any other comments on including a te ao Māori interpretation of the goals and learning outcomes of Te Whāriki in the legal curriculum framework?

The te ao Māori interpretation gives more opportunity for people to understand a socio-cultural curriculum – it strengthens the curriculum framework.

As an ITE provider we think it is crucial that all ITE providers must be aware of the te ao version so that they can incorporate it into their programmes. This will require Teaching Council and Ministry support to ensure all providers are made aware of the te ao version and how to use it.

Make submission to Gazetting.TeWhariki@education.govt.nz by 19 August 2022.

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