

5 February 2025

Tēnā koutou,

NZATE would like to update you regarding the curriculum development and our involvement in the process.

As we have informed our members previously, NZATE has been in talks with the MOE regarding the revised curriculum as they get ready to release it for consultation.

In December, the Ministry of Education released a copy of the revised curriculum of approximately 110 pages to NZATE with a nine-day period to give feedback. As with the entire process to date, NZATE entered into this in good faith. We gathered a group of subject experts together with NZATE Executive to develop comprehensive feedback which was sent to the Ministry of Education.

NZATE had a follow up meeting with the MOE on 17 January regarding feedback we had given. During this meeting, the MOE representatives indicated that there had been feedback from several unnamed groups. The MOE made clear that the curriculum document has to pass through several groups for feedback; NZATE is just one group. It was indicated in the lead up to this meeting that the feedback given by NZATE had been acted upon. Yet, the document given to us the day before the meeting indicated that changes were minimal. It was unreasonable to be given a 120-page document and only 24 hours to go through it before “workshopping” it in a 90-minute meeting the next day after school. In the meeting, there was discussion about other changes that were being worked on and then the document would be sent out to the other groups involved. The delay for the release of the document for consultation was discussed and NZATE expressed their desire to get it out to members for comment as soon as possible. NZATE were led to believe this was only a couple of weeks away.

NZATE contacted the MOE on Monday 3 February to ask when the draft curriculum was going to be released for wider consultation. The MOE appeared surprised that no communication had been released to the sector to indicate that the curriculum release is delayed until 17 February. As part of

this discussion, Pip Tinning was made aware that the MOE were using NZATE’s Book Room list to create a recommended reading list. The Minister’s office had directed that a list be created as the text requirements would apparently not be clear to kaiako without one. NZATE has in no way agreed to the hijacking of the list for this purpose.

This reading list has been crowd-sourced from English teachers across the motu by NZATE as a way to spark debate about the texts used in our classroom. It is there as an artifact to monitor the impact of our commitment to mātauranga Māori and how this is changing the texts used in our classrooms. It allows us to gain new ideas to ensure that a local curriculum lives in the texts used in our classrooms. It records the diverse nature of the ākonga teachers meet and the need to develop, enrich and advance their needs. It has never been a recommended reading list and should not be used to rush a recommended reading list to accompany a rushed curriculum because a directive has come from an interested party.

The process for the development of a revised curriculum continues to be of concern to NZATE. We began working with the MOE as a way to advocate for English teachers and to give feedback which we hope will be useful. However, what has happened is a line-by-line rewriting of a document in order to make it “palatable”.

Due to the unreliability of the MOE, the ad hoc directives they seem to be issued with, and the increasing concern that NZATE will be represented as agreeing to what is being developed, we have decided to step back from working with the MOE at this time. We will also be releasing our full feedback on the revised curriculum. Looking ahead, we will support members to provide their honest feedback on the revised curriculum document, whatever that may be.

NZATE Council