

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

End of Term Report

Commitment 3: School Leavers' Toolkit

Lead agency: Ministry of Education

Objective:

- 1 To develop a Schools Leavers' Toolkit (Toolkit), comprising a suite of tools, resources and curriculum supports making it much simpler for schools to:
 - Understand and respond to learners' levels of financial literacy, work readiness and knowledge of civics and personal wellbeing
 - Integrate civics, financial literacy, personal wellbeing and workplace competencies into their local curriculum across years 7 - 11
 - Effectively teach civics, financial literacy, personal wellbeing and workplace competencies.
- 2 Civics education, and an understanding of how government and the democratic process works, is an important element in developing young people who are confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.
- 3 The Toolkit will also provide a vehicle for increasing young people's access to other Plan commitments, such as the information products being developed by the Office of the Clerk, and the Youth Parliament programme, delivered by the Ministry of Youth Development and the Office of the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives.

Ambition:

- 4 Every young person can access the civic and financial literacy, and workplace skills, they need to succeed, before they leave schooling.

OGP values: This commitment is relevant to the OGP value of public participation. The School Leavers' Toolkit and its inclusion of civics education seeks to provide our young people with the skills, knowledge, and curiosity to engage and interact with civil society.

What we achieved:

We have developed:

- A School Leavers' Toolkit website directly targeted at young people: <https://school-leavers-toolkit.education.govt.nz/>. This website is actively managed by the Ministry of Education and the content is updated on a periodic basis. We see great traffic to this website with on average 2,00 – 2,500 users accessing the website every week.
- A School Leavers' Toolkit website directly targeted at schools: <https://sltk-resources.tki.org.nz/>
- This website also houses the civics resources that we have created to support civics education in English medium settings, see here: <https://sltk-resources.tki.org.nz/curriculum-resources/>. The civics resources are based on two key themes: belonging and living together

in Aotearoa New Zealand and processes of decision making and government. The resources include:

- A table outlining curriculum approaches to civics and citizenship education with specific examples of civics knowledge and citizenship education (social inquiry) processes for levels 1 - 5 of the New Zealand Curriculum
 - A teaching and learning guide for teachers; and
 - Student-led activities, that could be used for example in senior form/whānau groups.
- Numerous videos found throughout the School Leavers’ Toolkit website for students. These videos are shared and promoted through our social media channels throughout the year.
 - Te Hekenga ki Hawaikihou - this resource is co-designed with kaiako to prepare ākonga (young Māori) for their future pathways. It relates to the Toolkit topic areas of civics education, financial capability, workplace competencies and wellbeing/hauroa, with three key aspirations for ākonga:
 - Te whakawhanake Pukenga – skills development
 - Te Hauroa o te Tangata – holistic wellbeing; and
 - Whakawhanaungatanga – Relationships.

Summary:

The School Leavers’ Toolkit has been a success from the Ministry of Education’s perspective and has been well received by schools and kura nationwide. The website that we developed for, and in consultation with young people aged 16-24 receives on average 2,000 – 2,500 views per week. The civics resource we created as part of the School Leavers’ Toolkit was received well by the sector and garnered the support and promotion by the Aotearoa Social Studies Educators Network.

Milestones		Progress
1	Stocktake of existing Toolkit resources complete <i>June 2018 – September 2018</i>	
2	Ministers consider Ministry of Education analysis of opportunities to support expanded access to Toolkit opportunities <i>September 2018 – December 2018</i>	
3	Exploratory co-design phase concludes and is used to inform resource development and a detailed implementation support plan. <i>June 2018 – February 2019</i>	
4 ¹	Pilot implementation reporting and evaluation complete <i>February 2019 - Dec 2022</i>	
5	Toolkit training and support programme complete <i>February 2020 - Dec 2020</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

¹ In the draft self-assessment of the 2018-2021 Plan, we have categorised this milestone as “substantially completed” as it relates to a pilot running until 2022 that is well underway.

What we achieved

Milestone 1

We commissioned an education provider to complete a stocktake of all available resources covering the School Leavers' Toolkit learning areas. This stocktake was done well and formed the basis for the resources that sit on the school facing School Leavers' Toolkit website.

Milestone 2

During the development and launch of the School Leavers' Toolkit we consistently provided updates to the Minister through Education reports and the Ministry's education weekly update. This enabled us to maintain confidence from the Minister and ensure he was aware and across any decisions required.

Milestone 3

In December 2018 we had held a range of workshops and engagements nationwide on the initial School leavers' Toolkit engagement. The aim of this engagement was to better understand the programmes and resources schools are currently using to provide education on financial literacy, key workplace competencies and civics education and the challenges associated with providing access to these opportunities for all students in years 7 – 11. This consisted of speaking to 75 students, 24 school and kura staff and 30 employers.

Throughout the engagement process the message has been heard that the information students need is available but not easily found, time consuming and often contradictory. We also heard from parents, teachers, and employers that greater cooperation and communication needed to exist to make sure students have the skills needed to transition from school.

From our engagement process we decided to create two websites as part of the School Leavers' Toolkit.

- The school facing website which provides tools and resources to integrate Toolkit subject areas into a school's curriculum. This website is flexible to allow for content to be localised, and to include partnering with local groups, organisations and individuals who support young people in this area; and
- The student facing website to provide useful information on the Toolkit topics. This information on the website workshopped with students who advised us on what they view as the most important information they need. This website also provides links to other useful resources that can support students understanding.

Milestone 4

We intend to evaluate the School Leavers' Toolkit as part of the overall evaluation of the NCEA Change Programme. This evaluation is still a few years down the track and as the School Leavers' Toolkit has been active for nearly two years, we see it as prudent to begin a smaller scale evaluation. We see the release of the off the shelf packages of learning this year as an opportunity to monitor the success of the School Leavers' Toolkit. This resource provides schools with bespoke lesson and unit plans linked directly to the student facing School leavers' Toolkit content.

Milestone 5

In 2020 we delivered two tranches of workshops to school and kura nationwide on the School Leavers' Toolkit.

The first workshop focused on introducing the School Leavers' Toolkit and its intent. Through this workshop we explored resources that teachers could use in creating a School Leavers' Toolkit for their school or kura/wharekura. By the end of the day attendees had developed an action plan for how they could implement their own School Leavers' Toolkit.

The second workshop focused on the civics resources launched a month before these workshops. This was well received and provided attendees the opportunity to discuss how they could use the civics resources in their school or kura/wharekura.

How we included diverse voices and engaged diverse communities:

At the initiation of the School Leavers' Toolkit, we engaged in feedback hubs with schools/ kura that represented a range of decile levels, areas of the country, cultures, and gender identity. The feedback we received formed the six sections of the student-facing School Leavers' Toolkit and provided us with the content that we would include in each section. We have continued this engagement with young people through feedback hubs as we continue to test our content. This has led to new sections being added and new videos created. Most recently, we have engaged with schools/ kura around the country to help us create 9 videos that bust myths about tertiary education in New Zealand and to help build off-the-shelf packages of learning for life skills teachers to use. The use of ākonga voice on the School Leavers' Toolkit will continue to ensure its relevance, so we will continue our outreach into schools/ kura for the entirety of the life of this web channel.

We undertook a review of the School Leavers' Toolkit student website content to ensure it is reflective of the diversity of young New Zealanders in the current environment. As part of this we have developed a mihi video that welcomes young people to the School Leavers' Toolkit and rewritten parts of the website to reflect a stronger te ao Māori perspective.

We worked closely with the Māori medium sector for the development of the Māori medium civics rauemi. This included a rangatahi reference group who helped to shape and decide on what content was most relevant to them for the Māori medium civics rauemi.

We also utilise channels such as Kia Manawaroa to reach more whānau Māori. Through this channel we will communicate new content to the School Leavers' Toolkit and the launch of new resources (such as the Māori medium civics rauemi)

Commitment links:

<https://school-leavers-toolkit.education.govt.nz/>

<https://sltk-resources.tki.org.nz/>

https://kauwhatareo.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Huia-Publishers/SLT1901-CIF-Report/94952f5d09/SLT-CIF-2020-Report_English_FA.pdf

Impacts:

Although it is difficult to measure the impact of a website that is organised using many curated links to other content, we have gained anecdotal evidence through the following methods:

We measure our impact through the number of users accessing our School Leavers' Toolkit student website. Since its launch in September 2019, we have seen 82,000 users access the website with over 200,000 page views. The average time spent on the website is also over 1 minute which demonstrates that users are not leaving immediately after accessing the website.

Our workshop series raised the awareness and confidence of the sector to create their own School Leavers' Toolkit. Throughout the workshops there was a substantial shift of participant's growth in knowledge of the resources from pre-workshop to post workshop with 27% believing they had a good/very good knowledge of the SLTK resources pre-workshop and this moving to 82% post workshop.

What we learned:

Originally, we created content for the student-facing School Leavers' Toolkit in English and then translated the content into te reo Māori. We have learned that we need to get a better balance and consider things from a te ao Māori perspective first, then translate into English after. This will help engage all users of the School Leavers' Toolkit. We used this approach when developing the off-the-shelf packages of life skills learning and were very happy with the content and the process of content creation.

When we first launched our School Leavers' Toolkit websites we used a supplier to upload and update content on the website, but this was taking a lot of time to manage. We have brought this expertise in-house to both save money and speed up the process of updating content on the website.

Where to from here:

We have several new additions coming to the School Leavers' Toolkit. These additions build upon what has been released previously, seek to boost the esteem of the School Leavers' Toolkit, and make it easier for secondary schools to engage. We are also looking to provide some support to the Māori medium sector by creating resources to support their development of a School leavers' Toolkit. These resources are:

- Myth-busting videos - These are a series of 9 short videos that seek to debunk some of the myths that young people hear about leaving school. You can see a megacut of the 9 videos following this link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BZcN5eB0_SwJDnGsW2Et5idtPHQEAYjL?usp=sharing
- Māori medium civics rauemi – this is a series of e-books for Māori medium kura/wharekura. There is a set of e-books for rangatahi, kaiako and whānau
- Off the shelf packages of learning - An off-the-shelf package of learning seeks to provide a teacher with a bespoke learning or unit plan which they can easily pick up and teach in class. These packages relate to the 6 parts of the School Leavers' Toolkit on the student facing website:
 - Engaging in tertiary education
 - Moving out of home
 - Getting a job
 - Government and voting
 - Money and tax; and
 - Talking care of myself and others.