Tirotiro Anō Panel 2026 – Report and Consideration of Findings



PPTA | PO BOX 2119, WELLINGTON 6140 | P. +64 4 384 9964 | E. ENQUIRIES@PPTA.ORG.NZ
FILE NUMBER: G/AC/2026/CP/UPDATED POST CONF

Overview

Tirotiro Anō Panel Inquiry 2026.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received
2. That the PPTA Annual Conference receive the Tirotiro Anō – Phase One report on the proposal to change Aotearoa New Zealand's national qualification.
3. That PPTA Te Wehengarua Executive and Te Huarahi Māori Motuhake consider the findings and recommendations of the Tirotiro Anō – Phase One report on the proposal to change Aotearoa New Zealand's national qualification and, where consistent with Association policy, advocate for their implementation.
4. That PPTA Te Wehengarua circulate a hard copy of the Tirotiro Anō – Phase Oe report to each branch.

Contents

1 Background – ‘Tirotiro Anō- - “with fresh eyes, wide open, we are taking a fresh look.” 4

2 A phased approach 4

3 Tirotiro Anō panel findings and the PPTA Annual Conference 5

1 Background – 'Tirotiro Anō- - "with fresh eyes, wide open, we are taking a fresh look."

1.1. In 2025, the Executive agreed to establish an expert panel to report on the proposal to change New Zealand's national qualifications. The panel's work will also provide an update to Te Tiro Hou (1997), the report commissioned to consider the introduction of NCEA. The Executive approved the panel's criteria and terms of reference and, in February, confirmed its final membership.

1.2. The Tirotiro Anō panel is co-chaired by Melissa Denzler and Kate Gainsford and includes Claire Amos, Andrew Basher, Gavin Brown, Karen Dobric, Natalie Faitala, Pip Osborne, and Katy Thorne. The panel is supported by PPTA kaumātua Whaea Gazala and Papa Moeke.

1.3. The panel brings together educators with diverse backgrounds, lived experiences, and areas of expertise. Members have been working collaboratively on the report since early March. More information about the panellists can be found here Tirotiro Anō | PPTA

1.4. The Tirotiro Anō - Phase One Report on the proposal to change Aotearoa New Zealand's national qualification aims to provide the Association with a credible, independent voice on the changes and a platform for influence.

2 A phased approach

2.1 The Executive has agreed to a phased approach for the work of the Tirotiro Anō panel. While the government has confirmed the overall direction of the qualification reforms, many aspects remain in development, with more clarity around intent than implementation. The Executive considered that the panel's analysis would be most valuable if it reflected the staged development and implementation of the reform programme. This means there will be a two-phase report back from the panel – beginning with the phase 1 report prior to conference.

2.2 This phased approach enables the panel to provide a careful and credible analysis of what is known at this stage, while identifying the further questions, evidence, and design work required before more detailed conclusions can be reached.

2.3 Importantly, the phased approach recognises that the reforms, as currently articulated, remain incomplete. Significant policy, design, and implementation questions are yet to be resolved, and these issues warrant further examination before the full impact of the reforms can be properly assessed.

3 Tirotiro Anō panel findings and the PPTA Annual Conference

3.1 The panel's work is one inquiry, with shared research questions and complementary lines of inquiry. Significant mahi and whakaaro have gone into the inquiry streams. The first phase of the report will include findings from these lines of inquiry:

1. A Tiriti lens analysis and Impact on Māori and Treaty obligations. Kei Hea Tātau e Ahu Ana?
2. Rangatiratanga
3. Rural schools
4. Curriculum flexibility
5. English
6. Mathematics
7. Diverse learners
8. Vocational Education
9. Pasifika learners and community voice
10. Secondary school teachers' and leaders' perceptions
11. Academic

3.2 Due to the government's piecemeal approach to announcing NCEA reforms, the in-depth nature of the panel inquiry and the availability of complementary research commissioned by the PPTA from BERL, the Phase One Tirotiro Anō report will not be completed until shortly before Annual Conference. This paper provides a framework that will enable the report to be presented by the panel and discussed at Conference as a matter of significant importance to secondary teachers, while recognising that there will be limited opportunity for delegates to fully absorb the report or consider in detail the recommendations it is expected to contain.

3.3 The report is expected to have value both as a whole and through its individual lines of inquiry. Its findings have the potential to inform and strengthen the Association's advocacy across a range of issues arising from the proposed reforms.

3.4 It is therefore proposed that Conference receive the panel's report and that the Executive continue its consideration of the report's recommendations and any associated next steps following Conference. Where the findings and recommendations are consistent with Association policy, PPTA will use them to support and advance its advocacy on behalf of members.

3.5 This approach enables Conference to engage with the report and its emerging findings while allowing the Executive sufficient time to give full consideration to any recommendations and determine the Association's response once the report has been fully considered.