



Discussion document: Revoking the National Statement on the Network of Licensed Early Childhood Services

What is being proposed?

We are proposing to revoke the National Statement on the Network of Licensed Early Childhood Services (the National Statement).

From 1 February 2023, anyone intending to operate a new licensed early childhood service must apply for and be granted network approval from the Minister of Education, before applying for a licence. The National Statement sets out the strategic priorities for the establishment of licensed early childhood services and other relevant information for anyone intending to apply for network approval. You can access the National Statement using [this link](#).

Why is this being proposed?

This proposal will reduce the regulatory burden for providers wanting to establish new services. If revoked, network approval applications can still be submitted however applicants will no longer need to reflect the considerations and strategic priorities of the National Statement.

In addition to the proposal in this document on revoking the National Statement, the Government has also agreed that it will repeal network approval provisions as these requirements have added regulatory burden for early childhood services. Repealing the network approval provisions requires changing the law and will include opportunities to submit to select committee on the proposals. This proposal to revoke the National Statement is being undertaken separately to the repeal of network approval legislation.

We are seeking feedback on this proposal

1. Do you agree with the proposal to revoke the National Statement on the Network of Licensed Early Childhood Services?
2. If not, why not?
3. What do you think the impacts of this proposal could include?

Consultation on this proposal will close at 11.59pm on Sunday 5 May 2024. You can provide feedback on the proposal to revoke the National Statement by:

- Filling out an online survey here: <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/te-puna-kaupapahere-policy/revoking-the-ece-national-statement>
- Sending a submission to EarlyLearning.RegulatoryReview@education.govt.nz

What will happen following consultation?

Feedback we receive as part of this consultation will inform advice to Ministers.

All submissions received will become public information and will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. Any summary we create of feedback received during this consultation may mention your submission, please tell us if you do not want your name included. Please also set out clearly in your submission if you object to the release of any information in the submission, and in particular, which part (or parts) you consider should be withheld, together with your reasons for withholding the information. The Ministry will take this into account and will consult with submitters when responding to Official Information Act requests and if a submissions summary is published.