

# Office of Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education  
Minister of Immigration  
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response  
to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in  
State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions



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Tēnā koe, Maia

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 2025, on behalf of the Auckland Women's Centre, sharing your concerns about the recent removal of the relationships and sexuality education (RSE) guidelines.

In 2024, the Education Review Office (ERO) carried out an evaluation of RSE. ERO worked with RSE experts, teachers, leaders, board members, students and whānau to shine a light on what is working and what needs improving. The findings from this evaluation can be found at [evidence.ero.govt.nz/documents/let-s-talk-about-it-review-of-relationships-and-sexuality-education-summary](https://evidence.ero.govt.nz/documents/let-s-talk-about-it-review-of-relationships-and-sexuality-education-summary).

The RSE guidelines were an optional resource to support schools in their delivery of RSE. The guidelines were removed as we focus on developing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning. RSE sits within the health and physical education (HPE) learning area of The New Zealand Curriculum, which is currently being updated. The refreshed curriculum content will provide greater clarity about what ākonga need to understand, know, and do from Years 1-13, and will include teaching and learning guides based on the science of learning to help a diverse range of learners achieve these outcomes.

The new draft framework for RSE is now available for consultation until 9 May 2025. The draft framework has consent taught at every year level and builds in complexity to ensure that students have the knowledge and tools to participate effectively and safely in all their relationships. You are encouraged to have your say on these very important topics. You can read the draft RSE framework and provide feedback at [newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/5637263826.p](https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/5637263826.p).

There will be further opportunities to provide feedback on RSE, with wider consultation on the full HPE learning area of The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) planned to begin in Term 4, 2025. The learning area is planned to be ready for use by schools in 2026, with full implementation in all schools expected by 2027. The Ministry of Education will seek feedback from various stakeholders, including kaiako and academics, schools and members of the community when developing this refreshed content. You can follow the process at [newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/new-zealand-curriculum-online/new-zealand-curriculum/new-zealand-curriculum-refresh/5637144667.c](https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/new-zealand-curriculum-online/new-zealand-curriculum/new-zealand-curriculum-refresh/5637144667.c).

I note your concern about removing the RSE guidelines before a replacement framework is in place. This year schools will not need to change their planning or delivery of RSE, as it will align with the current 2007 version of the New Zealand Curriculum and be informed by their community in consultation. Students will learn about topics, such as consent, online safety and healthy relationships at school.

Thank you again for writing, Maia, and I wish you and everyone at Auckland Women's Centre all the very best.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Erica Stanford  
Minister of Education