



22 May 2025

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Tēnā koe Penny

OIA: 1346594 – Draft RSE Guidelines

Thank you for your email to the Minister of Education, Hon Erica Stanford, that was transferred to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) on 23 April 2025, requesting the following information:

You have tasked an independent 'writing group' to develop the new draft framework for Relationships & Sexuality education. Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

1. *The names of all of the NGOs, universities, think-tanks and/or charities that the writers are affiliated with.*
2. *You are quoted in this RNZ article:*
[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/558126/consultation-starts-on-new-draft-sexuality-education-framework-;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rDv6tVUrxT0q6MO8YXB1hf3zbhR1CX5W6zKqogoMnRGsPb_m6vkmU7Ss8RnDmAO5Ss31UPfyICEsr2oajPac76Y\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/558126/consultation-starts-on-new-draft-sexuality-education-framework-;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rDv6tVUrxT0q6MO8YXB1hf3zbhR1CX5W6zKqogoMnRGsPb_m6vkmU7Ss8RnDmAO5Ss31UPfyICEsr2oajPac76Y$) dated April 14, that they are 'experts in the ministry [of Education]'. Provide an explanation of how these people can be 'independent' and yet work within the MOE (as stated in the RNZ article).
3. *Provide a detailed list of the writing group members':*
 - a. *qualifications,*
 - b. *associations and*
 - c. *experience in the education, comprehensive sexuality education, and policy/guideline development.*
4. *Detail the selection criteria for the writing group, and if there were other applicants to contribute to this group that were not selected, and if so, why did they not meet the criteria?*
5. *Provide the 'quality assurance' process that the new draft guidelines went through by both internal and external experts, and how are these internal and external experts selected.*

6. *Provide all titles of the research that the new draft guidelines draw on (such as Counting Ourselves etc)*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and has been numbered for the purposes of responding:

I am refusing **parts one and three** of your request under section 18(a) of the Act, since, by virtue of section 9(2)(a) of the Act, there is good reason for withholding the information requested to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

In response to **part two** of your request, the draft Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) framework was developed by internal Ministry subject matter experts and reviewed by members of the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Contributor Group. This group was established for the refresh of the HPE learning area and will provide the subject matter expertise required to help ensure accuracy and relevance of the refreshed curriculum materials. Those involved have experience and expertise in primary and secondary teaching, curriculum development, health education and research and academia. They are a combination of public servants and independent sector experts.

In response to **part four** of your request, as existing Ministry employees, there was no formal selection process for internal subject matter experts. In November 2024, we reviewed our internal processes for the establishment of Contributing Groups, of which the HPE Contributor Group is one, along with the development of the associated learning areas within the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. Our revised approach takes into account lessons learned and allows for different groups of experts to be engaged at various development stages to ensure wider representation across the learning area. The current stage focuses on laying a broad, foundational framework for RSE, and, as this becomes more specialised, more (and different) expertise will be needed.

In response to **part five** of your request, quality assurance was provided through review and by comparison to international jurisdictions. It is important to note that public consultation is a critical step in the development process, through which we are able to gather feedback from the wider community, including teachers, leaders, students and their parents and caregivers. The next step is for the feedback from the consultation to inform updates to the HPE learning area. This will be developed with quality assurance in line with the Ministry's approach for all learning areas. The final RSE content will be released for further consultation as part of the HPE learning area later this year.

In response to **part six** of your request, in developing the draft framework, the Ministry drew on key content from the 2020 RSE guidelines and the following curricula and research. Please refer to the links provided for the full documents:

- Let's Talk about it: Review of relationships and sexuality education, Education Review Office (2024): <https://www.evidence.ero.govt.nz/documents/let-s-talk-about-it-review-of-relationships-and-sexuality-education>

- International technical guidance on sexuality education: an evidence-informed approach, UNESCO: unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770
- Sexuality Education: Scope and teaching approach, Singapore: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-programmes/sexuality-education/scope-and-teaching-approach>
- Relationships, Sex, and Health Education statutory guidance, Department of Education, England: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>
- Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, Victoria, Australia: <https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/learning/sites/respectful-relationships/1785/Respectful-Relationships-resources>

Human Development and Sexual Health education, Ontario, Canada:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/health-and-physical-education-grades-1-8/human-development-and-sexual-health-education-grade>

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku, nā



Hayley Welch

**General Manager (Acting), New Zealand Curriculum and Te Whāriki
Te Mahau | Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre)**