

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



16 FEB 2021

Chris Beard
Executive Director, ISANA NZ

Ref: C014626

Carla Rey Vasquez
National Co-President, ISANA NZ

By email to chris.beard@isana.nz

Dear Chris and Carla

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2020 sharing ISANA's key priorities for the international education sector over the next term of government. I appreciate your kind words of support for my reappointment as Minister, and I apologise for the delay in responding.

I acknowledge the work ISANA has carried out to support international education and international students during this uniquely challenging past year. This includes your participation in the border sector group as the Government plans for the return of international students. I was pleased to see the progress ISANA has made in the area of professionalisation of our international education sector.

I note you mention the International Student Wellbeing funding has been the source of some of ISANA's funding in recent years, and in its absence, ISANA is seeking alternative sources of sustainable funding. I can confirm the wellbeing fund is currently committed to other wellbeing projects.

This is a challenging time for stakeholders across international education, and I recognise the difficulties ISANA is facing. As you are aware, the Government has set out a strategic recovery plan for international education to recover and rebuild the sector following the impact of COVID-19.

I acknowledge your request to meet with me to discuss inclusion of professionalisation of the international education sector as a priority in the Government's COVID-19 recovery plan. Unfortunately, my current portfolio commitments mean I am unable to meet at this time. However, I understand that you have met with Ministry of Education and Education New Zealand officials, and I encourage you to continue these discussions, as well as your positive contributions to the sector.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns. I wish you and all at ISANA the very best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CHIPKINS'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education