

Event backgrounder: Minister to visit Otago University on 12 July 2019

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	s9(2)(a), Manager Delivery and Projects
Date:	11 July 2019
Reference:	E-19-00879

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to meet with the Acting Vice Chancellor and senior staff from Otago University on 12 July 2019. The meeting will take place at 1pm in the Health Sciences Divisional Board room, fourth floor, Physiotherapy building, 325 Great King Street. This will be followed by a tour of the recently refurbished Otago Dental School at 310 Great King Street, North Dunedin and student engagement.
2. This event backgrounder provides you with information on Otago University, including its approach to international education and details about the redeveloped Dental School.
3. Information on key personnel who will be in attendance at the meeting and tour can be found in **Appendix 1**.
4. We recommend this event backgrounder is proactively released.

Background Information on University of Otago

5. In 2019, Otago University are expected to deliver approximately 16,600 equivalent full-time students (EFTS), receiving \$243 million in Student Achievement Component funding.
6. In terms of student numbers, Otago University is one of the largest universities in New Zealand, currently teaching over 20,800 students and delivering qualifications in a broad suite of subject areas from business, humanities, science and health. As the oldest university in New Zealand, Otago is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2019. The university has also been ranked joint 175th in the world by the QS World University Rankings (2019).
7. In 2017/2018 Otago undertook a broad support services review. This process saw the implementation of administrative and operational processes to ensure excellence in research and teaching at Otago. This process also received a lot of media attention.
8. The University of Otago has been developing 'Directions to 2040', a strategic plan which signals that the university wants to take a longer-term view of its activities. This includes an internationalisation strategy, Māori strategic framework, Pasifika strategy and sustainability strategy will sit under 'Directions to 2040'.

An International Perspective

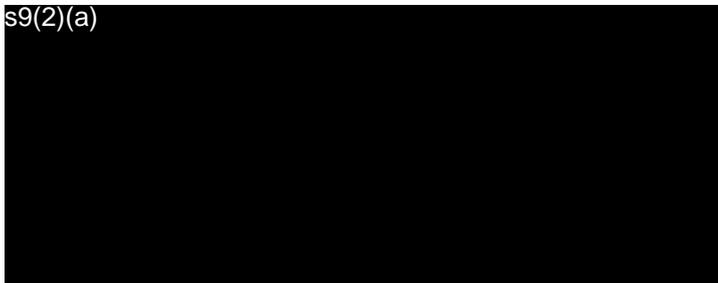
9. From January – August 2018, there were 3,023 international students enrolled with the University of Otago, a 3% increase compared to the same period in 2017. Of the 3,023 international students enrolled at the university, 62% were studying for a bachelor's degree, 23% for a PhD and 8% for a Master's degree.
10. The most popular course classifications over this period were society and culture, natural and physical sciences, management and commerce, health and the creative arts. The top five source countries for the university's international students over this period were the United States of America (773 students), China (573 students), Malaysia (304 students), India (137 students) and the United Kingdom (83 students).
11. An internationalisation strategy is due to be completed by the third quarter of 2019 and is likely to have a five-year outlook. The strategy will focus on an internationalised campus, recruitment and retention of international talent, the creation of international experiences for students and international partnerships. s9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED]
12. The strategy is expected to include:
 - a. Four key regional market managers (who also recruit for the Foundation and Language Centre) utilising academic staff and alumni within recruitment activities, as well as piloting activities such as virtual fairs
 - b. A 'Beyond Dunedin' approach which focuses on internationalising the university's Auckland and Christchurch campuses as well as developing offshore delivery. s9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED].
 - c. A South Island approach between Otago, Lincoln and Canterbury universities. The initial thinking is a joint South Island agent summit in January 2020, focusing on agreed markets. The 2021 plan is to link a South Island experience onto the end of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education Conference and Exhibition 2021, which is being held in Auckland.
 - d. A focus on graduate opportunities, especially in certain markets, following the post-study work policy announcement in August 2018. This includes working more closely with Study Dunedin and utilising alumni to highlight the post-study opportunities.
 - e. A continued focus on research as approximately 37% of international students are enrolled at post-graduate level; up from about 25% 10 years ago.
 - f. Leveraging the university's strength in the North American study abroad student market to develop full degree recruitment in this market.
13. In the March 2019 scholarship rounds, 12 students from the University of Otago have been awarded Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia (PMSA) and two have been awarded Prime Minister's Scholarships for Latin America (PMSLA). The PMSA recipients will study or undertake internships in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore or Taiwan. The PMSLA recipients will study in Brazil.

Otago University Dental School – Te Kaupeka Pūniho

14. The Faculty of Dentistry has an international reputation for clinical and research excellence. Founded in 1907, it is New Zealand's National Centre for Dentistry. It forms an integral part of the Division of Health Sciences within the University of Otago.

15. The Faculty of Dentistry is ranked 34th-best dental school in the world (2019 QS World University Subject Rankings). It offers undergraduate programmes in all branches of dentistry (Dental Technology, Dentistry and Oral Health); and postgraduate training and facilities for students who wish to continue their education and obtain further qualifications. In addition the faculty operates a teaching hospital for the people of Dunedin and the surrounding community.
16. In 2019, Otago University's dental faculty is funded for 411 EFTS, equating to around \$16.2 million in SAC 3+ funding.
17. The University of Otago has recently invested \$130 million into the redevelopment of its dental school. The building is the national centre for dentistry, and includes 214 new dental chairs with digitally integrated technology allowing patients' records to be seen on screen while on the chair. The Dunedin redevelopment also includes the establishment of a community clinic in South Dunedin called Te Kāika.
18. In a response to high health needs in the Auckland region, the faculty is also constructing a \$28.3 million dollar building in Counties Manukau. This is on target to be completed before the start of the 2020 academic year.

s9(2)(a)



Manager, Delivery and Projects, Delivery
Directorate

11 July 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Appendix 1: Biographies of Otago University Personnel

Professor Richard Blaikie, acting Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise



Professor Blaikie is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, and Professor in Physics, at Otago. He is also currently the Acting Vice Chancellor. He received the B.Sc. (Hons) degree from the University of Otago, New Zealand, in 1988 and the Ph.D. degree in physics from the University of Cambridge, U.K., in 1992.

For one year, he was a visiting scientist at the Hitachi Cambridge Laboratory (UK), investigating single-electron transport effects in semiconductor nanostructures. He returned to New Zealand in 1993, taking up a position in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Canterbury prior to moving to his current role at Otago. He was the Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, a Centre of Research Excellence between 2008 and 2011.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Blaikie oversees all of the research and commercialisation activities of the University.

Professor Helen Nicholson, Deputy Vice Chancellor External Engagement



The University of Otago appointed Professor Helen Nicholson as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement) in 2015. She oversees the Division of External Engagement, which comprises Marketing & Communications, an International Division, and Development & Alumni Relations. The decision to bring these areas into this single External Engagement Division is in line with the strategic direction of the University to focus on strong external engagement.

David Thomson, Director Planning and Funding



David has overall responsibility for providing high-level strategic planning advice and support to the University community and leadership in terms of how best to optimise EFTS funding for the University. David serves on a number of university and education sector advisory groups.

James Heath, President, Otago University Student's Association



James completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Otago in 2018. He is the current President of the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) having served two years previously on the OUSA Executive; and is a director of University Book Shop (UBS) Limited.

He is a member of the University's Appeals Board and the Finance and Budget Committee.

Tuari Potiki, Director Office of Maori Development



Tuari has been extensively involved in the Māori health, mental health, education and justice sectors for more than 25 years. He has worked in a number of different roles as a Māori alcohol and drug clinician and tutor before moving into management roles in both the public and non-government sector.

Tuari has experience in indigenous development and for five years worked for Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation where he managed social development programmes for his iwi.

Tuari also has extensive governance experience and is the current Chair of the New Zealand Drug Foundation Board. He has served terms on the boards of the Southern District Health Board, Canterbury District Health Board, the Canterbury Community Trust and Ngāi Tahu's Health and Social Service agency He Oranga Pounamu. Tuari has previously been an executive member of the Drug and Alcohol Practitioners Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (DAPAANZ). He was also the Senior Māori Advisor to the National Addiction Centre which sits within the University of Otago.

Tuari has recently returned home to Dunedin to take up the role of Director of Maori Development, Otago University. Before that he was based in Wellington as General Manager of Strategic Operations for the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand.

Professor Pat Cragg, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic



Associate Professor Pat Cragg, who retired in May 2018 after 42 years at the University of Otago, returned in the middle of April 2019 as Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). She has previously held a variety of roles such as Head of the Department of Physiology; Deputy Dean and Acting Dean of the School of Biomedical Sciences; Divisional Associate Dean Academic Health Sciences; the University of Otago representative on the national Committee on University Academic Programmes; and chair of the Scientific Committee of the Otago Medical Research Foundation, a charitable trust.

Professor Paul Brunton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences



Professor Brunton graduated from the University of Leeds School of Dentistry in 1984. He completed his MSc and PhD at the University of Manchester and completed specialist training in 2001.

Professor Brunton was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Otago in 2014.

In July 2018 Professor Brunton was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Health Sciences.

Professor Brunton's research interests include operative dentistry, specifically tooth preparation and tooth whitening; and early diagnosis and treatment of tooth wear.

For the tour of the Dental School, in addition to those above:

Professor Karl Lyons, Head of Department, Dental School



Professor Lyons has carried out research in dental implants and materials and in microbial adhesion to dental obturator prostheses. He was awarded his PhD in 2012. Dental obturator prostheses can restore surgical resection defects in the maxilla of patients who have had surgery to remove cancer in the palate or sinuses, but microbial adhesion to these prostheses reduces the lifetime of the prosthesis and can affect the health of these patients, particularly during radiotherapy.

You will also be accompanied by a group of University of Otago students