

Office of Hon H. Peters  
18 JUN 2018

TR18-9140



### Education New Zealand Briefing

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student leaders visit to New Zealand</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	18 June 2018	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>ENZ ID no:</b>	1718-147

#### Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
Minister of Education	<p><b>Note</b> that the University of Canterbury and the Student Volunteer Army invited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student leaders to visit New Zealand from 22-28 July 2018.</p> <p><b>Note</b> that Education New Zealand is working with your office to arrange for you to participate in the visit.</p> <p><b>Forward</b> this briefing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Youth and Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector for their information.</p> <p><b>Agree</b> that this briefing is proactively released as part of the July 2018 release.</p>	

#### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
John Goulter	General Manager, Stakeholders and Communications	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	withheld under s9(2)(a)
Lisa Futschek	Regional Director, Americas and Europe	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	x withheld under s9(2)(a)

#### The following departments/agencies have seen this report

<input type="checkbox"/> ERO	<input type="checkbox"/> MBIE	<input type="checkbox"/> MFaT	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD
<input type="checkbox"/> NZQA	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Minister's office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change
<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<b>Comments:</b>			

## Education New Zealand Briefing

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### Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you

- a. **note** that the University of Canterbury and the Student Volunteer Army invited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student leaders to visit New Zealand from 22-28 July 2018
- b. **note** that Education New Zealand is working with your office to arrange for you to participate in the visit

**Noted**

- c. **forward** this briefing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Youth and Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector for their information

Agree / Disagree

- d. **agree** that this briefing is proactively released as part of the July 2018 release

Agree / Disagree



John Goulter  
**General Manager, Stakeholders and Communications**  
Education New Zealand



Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

21 / 6 / 18

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## Purpose

1. This briefing informs you about the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student leaders visit to New Zealand from 22-28 July 2018 and that Education New Zealand (ENZ) is working with your office to arrange for you to participate in the visit.

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## Background

2. On 14 February 2018, 14 students and 3 teachers were killed and 17 were wounded at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD High School) in Parkland, Florida, in one of the deadliest school shootings in the United States.
3. In the aftermath of the event, MSD High School students mobilised to create 'Never Again MSD', a student-led gun control organisation that advocates for tighter regulations to prevent gun violence in the United States. A number of Never Again MSD student leaders have become household names in the United States, including Emma González who gave a powerful speech during the March For Our Lives<sup>1</sup>.
4. The University of Canterbury and the Student Volunteer Army<sup>2</sup> have extended an invitation to 26 MSD High School student leaders to visit New Zealand and participate in a Youth Leadership Summit in July 2018. New Zealand is the first country to invite these student leaders to take part in this type of initiative and positions New Zealand as progressive thought-leaders.
5. The Summit will bring together MSD High School students with student leaders from the Student Volunteer Army and the University of Canterbury's Community Engagement Hub to exchange experiences, ideas and knowledge to support sustainable youth-led movements and community engagement.
6. The Summit initiative was spear-headed by Nancy Gilbert (the wife of Mark Gilbert who is a former United States Ambassador to New Zealand) in her capacity as the Honorary Consul for New Zealand in Florida. ENZ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) have each committed US\$8,000 funding to the inaugural Christchurch – Parkland Youth Leadership Summit.
7. The visit to New Zealand has been built around the Summit as it highlights New Zealand's support for grassroots community organising and underscores New Zealand as a global destination for developing civic innovators and future leaders.
8. The visit provides ENZ with a significant platform to promote New Zealand's world-class education sector by highlighting New Zealand as a high quality 'study abroad' destination for students. Coverage of the visit will support ENZ's objective of showcasing the benefits of young people travelling abroad to learnt from their international counterparts, which supports the global citizens goal of the draft International Education Strategy 2018-2030.

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<sup>1</sup> March for Our Lives was a student-led demonstration in support of tighter gun control that took place on 24 March 2018 in Washington D.C., with over 800 sibling events held throughout the United States and around the world. Never Again MSD planned the march in collaboration with Everytown for Gun Safety, a non-profit organisation.

<sup>2</sup> The Army was formed by a small group of student volunteers immediately after the September 2010 Christchurch earthquake to support local relief efforts. The movement has endured with an expanded focus of encouraging New Zealanders of all ages to become involved in community volunteering.

9. New Zealand Ambassador Tim Groser travelled to Parkland, Florida for the formal invitation assembly on behalf of New Zealand to the students of MSD High School. The Ambassador also met with Mayor of Parkland Christine Hunschofsky, Florida State Senator Lori Berman and other senior City of Parkland leaders.

### **The MSD High School student leaders visit to New Zealand**

10. The students will visit New Zealand from 21-28 July 2018 to attend the Youth Leadership Summit on 24-26 July, develop and implement a joint service project in Christchurch and tour the 'Rebuild Christchurch City Project'.
11. The Christ's College Year 12 Dean and Head of Leadership and Character Education will also organise a High School Leadership Conversations event for the MSD High School students and high school student leaders from 29 Christchurch schools. The attending students will engage in an interactive leadership programme and will enable the students to share their stories with their peers. This event will be held at 9.30am-12.30pm on 25 July during a break in the Summit's programme.

#### **Timeline for the visit**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
22 July	MSD High School students arrive in Christchurch.
23 July	Powhiri and welcome luncheon for MSD High School students.
24-26 July	The Summit programme includes workshops on civic engagement, resilience and sustainable grassroots activism.
25 July	High School Leadership Conversations event.
27 July	MSD High School students arrive in Wellington for an official visit to Government House at the invitation of Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy and tour of Wellington.
28 July	MSD High School students depart Wellington for the United States.

### **The Youth Leadership Summit**

12. The Summit's themes are:
- **Student activism/Social movements for social change:** What defines a social movement? How to access organisational structures and establish strategies to empower communities and affect change.
  - **Crafting your public narrative/The power of words and language:** Social change is part storytelling and part public action. Identify the art of translating values into action through stories by defining the "why" of organising.
  - **Sustainable movement/Creating a movement legacy:** Defining the forces for creating a movement with momentum to achieve effective and sustainable social change.

- **Identifying student leaders/Cultivating a culture of leadership:** A key responsibility of a leader is to not only lead, but to identify, inspire, motivate and develop a culture supportive for the leaders of tomorrow.
- **Leadership/Developing social influence:** If you cannot influence, you cannot lead. Truly transformational leadership is not about the position you occupy, it is related to your personal power. And to understand that, one needs to understand sources of personal influence, and how to translate it at scale.
- **Activism 201/The new frontier for social change:** Claiming your permission space to experiment widely on a social scale, to put forward bold ideas and new strategies. Stop waiting for other established organisations to sign off first, if you have a theory of how to create social change then test it out.

13. The Summit will include guest speakers and thought leaders from across New Zealand's business, government, and non-profit sectors.

#### Options for Ministerial involvement in the visit

14. Options for Ministerial involvement in the MSD High School student leaders visit are to:
- present an Aotearoa Youth Leadership Award (which takes the form of pounamu necklaces for each student) to the MSD High School student leaders at the High School Leadership Conversations in Christchurch on 25 July
  - attend the official visit to Government House in Wellington on the morning of 27 July
  - present the MSD High School student leaders with an Aotearoa Youth Leadership Award at Parliament on the afternoon of 27 July and show them around Parliament.
15. ENZ is working with your office to see if we can arrange for you to participate in one of these events.

#### Media

16. ENZ anticipates that there will be significant media interest in the visit, both in the United States and in New Zealand and also expects that there will be wider social media coverage. MFAT and ENZ are working on a joint communications plan and will collaborate with the University of Canterbury to manage media coverage.
17. ENZ will work to ensure a consistent hashtag is used on Instagram and may also ask the students, where appropriate, to use #studyinnewzealand.

#### Proactive release

18. ENZ intends to proactively release this briefing as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.