

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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Learning Environments Australasia
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Tēnā koutou

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2025 about the positive impact of Innovative Learning Environments. I appreciate you getting in touch to share your research with me, following the Centre for Independent Studies event last year.

We are focused on raising student achievement and closing the equity gap, and like you, we know an important part of this is ensuring learning spaces are supporting improved student outcomes. That is why I announced last year that new classrooms will be built prioritising flexibility over open-plan layouts, providing fit-for-purpose spaces that allow for spatial separation and focused learning. Classrooms will be delivered with maximum value for money, ensuring more Kiwi kids can access the learning environments that will benefit them the most, faster.

We have introduced structured approaches to learning, as evidence shows they are among the most effective ways to equip children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. Learning environments that allow for focused learning and quieter environments will support this learning and help students in gaining foundational knowledge. We know all students will benefit from this.

Thank you for your kind offer of support in accessing the University of Melbourne's research and expertise, and for your willingness to collaborate. I understand the Ministry has engaged with ILETC on the study and has met with Chris Bradbeer to discuss the findings. The Ministry's School Property team has also assured me they remain committed to working with LENZ as a long-term member of the association.

Thank you again for writing, and I wish you all the very best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Stanford'.

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education