

Agenda

Digital Economy and Digital Inclusion Ministerial Advisory Group meeting

8 August 2019, 11.00 – 12.00pm

Ministerial Meeting Room 9. 2.1 Executive Wing.

(lunch to follow)

Item	Lead	Description	Paper	Time Allocated
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	Victoria MacLennan	Chair to welcome and confirm group member attendance and apologies. Health and Safety housekeeping Note: The resignation of Ms Brenda Leeuwenberg.	No	5 mins
Item 2: Advice received from DEDIMAG dated 20 May and 24 July	Victoria MacLennan	Discussion on advice provided on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ePublishing- Māori Business – the digital opportunity- Government Procurement- Digital Inclusion- SME adoption of ICT	Copy of advice as reference	10 mins
Item 3: Next steps for DEDIMAG	Hon Fafoi to lead a discussion	An opportunity for DEDIMAG to discuss the priorities for the Government in the digital and data landscape.	No	40 mins
Item 4: Other Business	Victoria MacLennan	Any other business	No.	5 mins



20th May 2019

Attention: Minister Woods and Minister Faafoi
From: DEDIMAG Members

Kia ora Ministers,

Topic: Digital Inclusion. Born accessible information and the EPUB3 format.

Background

EPUB3 (<http://www.idpf.org/epub/301/spec/epub-overview.html>) is a widely adopted format for electronic publications that enables the bundling of content in multiple ways that can then be accessed by users via their preferred reading system, without further conversion.

This accessibility can be built into the very beginning of any material which is produced electronically. Using EPUB3, and future formats which will succeed it, means that all readers can receive a publication at the same time.

This is significant for the inclusion of people who are unable to read standard print - blind and low vision people of all ages, people who are dyslexic or otherwise unable to read a book printed in just one physical format.

EPUB3 eliminates the expense and time delay of converting a text into an accessible format such as large print, braille, accessible e-text or audio. For example, an EPUB3 file can allow a reader to get text to speech, a physical braille file or electronic braille directly. EPUB3 enables content to be rendered in different media, without timely and costly conversions.

DEDIMAG Support for EPUB3 as a publishing standard

A campaign has been formed to advocate to New Zealand based publishers to adopt EPUB3 as leading publishers internationally have. The campaign is likely to ask the government to endorse EPUB3 as the primary publishing standard from which all



other formats can be produced, and to support New Zealand's publishing industry to invest in a standard which ensures inclusiveness and international competitiveness.

Having the Ministry of Education adopt EPUB3 as a standard for procuring information resources for learners would make a significant difference for students at every level who currently face delays in receiving texts and other reading material used by their sighted peers.

Members of the campaign include the Blind Foundation, Blind Citizens NZ, other blindness consumer organisations, vision education leaders and other individuals. Greg Morgan, a member of DEDIMAG, is part of the campaign.

DEDIMAG draws this campaign to your attention. EPUB3 is an example of digital technology as an enabler of social inclusion through removing the barriers many New Zealanders face in being able to access publicly available information.

Victoria MacLennan on behalf of DEDIMAG Members



Briefing for Minister Faafoi from DEDIMAG - 24th July 2019

Tēnā koe Minister

Congratulations on your appointment to the Digital Government Services portfolio and to cabinet. As we are soon to be meeting with you it seemed timely to share our thinking and provide you with some insight from your Ministerial Advisory Group.

Role of DEDIMAG

Strengthening your thinking. We understand you have presented a cabinet paper on the proposed Digital Council. We have not seen this paper but understand the process to establish that entity, the decision on how to reconcile differing advisory functions (including our own group) and other details will take time to resolve.

The **primary function of the DEDIMAG is to strengthen your thinking**, providing an alternative view to that of your officials and lobby groups, and to bring greatly needed perspectives of the many community sectors we collectively represent.

DEDIMAG is also in a position to provide you with advice on the priority areas (beyond those set by Minister Woods) to speed up transformation of our economy into a thriving, productive, digital nation.

We anticipate there will be further media and lobbyist interest in the CTO function over the coming weeks. To this end we recommend we continue to operate in current format and will continue to provide you with advice such as represented here until such a time as we have met and understand your future intentions.

Māori business - the digital opportunity

In recent weeks DEDIMAG members have been consulted by, and provided feedback on, both the DIA draft strategy for Digital Public Service and the Ministry of Health draft Innovation Framework. Both documents represent strong potential for growth and a future state which have the potential to support the goal of a growing export-led Digital Technology sector.

We note both agencies could benefit from strengthening their focus and incorporating stronger alignment, leverage co-design and generally inject Māori indigenous design into their models. This will be of particular benefit when developing service innovation across the public sector.

Design through a Māori lens will not only improve the way we deliver services locally, but also presents a unique opportunity for Aotearoa on the global stage at a time the world is looking to

us to provide leadership on climate impact and governance through kindness and wellbeing priorities. Focusing resources on developing this capability will result in our country's ability to realise this high value, high impact digital opportunity.

Equally, embedding Māori values into the culture of the public sector will create roles, grow people and create an opportunity to really change the experience of our citizens when engaging with the public service.

Key focus areas

Minister Woods had asked us to focus our efforts in the following key focus areas. When we next meet in person we will provide further information on these beyond the points of concern listed below.

Government Procurement

We have read and are buoyed by the language used in Minister Parker's paper - "From the Knowledge Wave to the Digital Age" - with particular reference to the Industry Transformation plan for Digital Technology and statements about

- Supporting New Zealand digital technology firms by providing a level playing field for New Zealand firms to compete for government business and
- Working through the Digital Skills Forum to ensure the digital technology sector, and the industries that rely on digital technology workers, can access the tech talent needed to support the growth of these sectors and the economy more generally.

Level playing field - we would like to draw your attention to a pressing situation in Government procurement which creates quite the opposite set of conditions. This is the existence of single supplier preferential contracts known as Common Capability suppliers. The most concerning of these is the monopoly situation DIA has created for multinational provider SAP as the sole provider of Human Resources Information Systems awarded in this contract category. Many industry groups have brought this concern to DIA for resolution. We would recommend this style of contract—the use of agreements with multi-nationals to the detriment of NZ owned companies and the resulting monopoly position they create—be abandoned immediately in favour of open procurement frameworks.

Digital Inclusion

DEDIMAG members are all involved in community based digital inclusion initiatives working actively within the inclusion ecosystem - which places us in a unique position to provide insight

into this topic. In anticipation of our upcoming discussion with you we wanted to make some key observations:

- Digital Inclusion is, put simply, a fundamental requirement to enable full participation in society by our citizens. It is fundamental to wellbeing. Use of digital technologies can enhance fair access to services, prolong independence, improve social connectedness, enhance experiences and realise access to opportunities.
- The inclusion ecosystem in Aotearoa is well meaning but fragmented and very significantly under resourced. Government support is urgently required to redress both of these fundamental challenges.
- We were hopeful that the first Wellbeing Budget would have led to significant investment in digital inclusion, given its many connections to the wellbeing of people and society. We recommend connecting future digital inclusion work closely to the wellbeing approach
- We have found the understanding across government agencies—despite the great work DIA has undertaken to date with the Digital Inclusion Blueprint and Action Plan—is inconsistent. Views range from those who still believe digital inclusion means connectedness only (now we have fibre throughout the country we are done) through to those who understand the opportunity closing the digital divide will create, but do not see this as a collective focus challenge their agency or department needs to be involved with.
- We are aware that neither us as a group, or DIA as lead agency, have a clear view of what existing investment in digital inclusion is happening across government. You and your cabinet colleagues could require other agencies to provide this information in a timely and comprehensive way.
- We recommend DEDIMAG, or another entity, is resourced to co-ordinate and amplify the efforts DIA is undertaking in this space, providing connection with the ecosystem.

SME Adoption of ICT

The recent visit to New Zealand by OECD researchers highlighted again the correlation between uptake of digital technologies in business and the potential to increase productivity. In their presentation on “Digitisation and Productivity, in search of the holy grail” Dr. Giuseppe Nicolette and Dr. Chiara Crisculo* noted three key points we should incorporate into design of capability development for SME’s.

1. “Skill shortages reduce productivity gains from adoption, especially in low productive firms.”
2. The need to develop good policy to increase “**Participation in training** – especially of low-skilled workers – and its quality, as well as promoting good cognitive, organisational and managerial **skills**.”

3. The importance of lifting digital skills across an entire organisation including all levels of management to achieve productivity gains.

We seek to engage with MBIE as the lead agency on SME adoption of ICT, and the Digital Skills Forum as the initiative most focused on lifting digital capabilities of our workforce to further explore how these recommendations can be incorporated into policy and initiatives in a New Zealand SME context.

*see <https://www.digitalskillsforum.nz/digitalisation-and-productivity-in-search-of-the-holy-grail/>

DEDIMAG Membership

Brenda Leewenberg has resigned her membership of the MAG. We are all sorry to see Brenda leave as her contributions were valued by the members. Brenda's full resignation message is below:

"After some consideration I have decided to withdraw from DEDIMAG.

In my previous capacity as Head of Innovation for NZ On Air I was pleased to represent aspects of the creative sector on the group. However as I am now quite removed from that sector it seems less appropriate to be that voice. I have found myself struggling recently to define where I can add value to the current priorities for DEDIMAG, and so I have decided to resign from the group - hopefully so that my place can be allocated to someone else who can bring new perspectives.

I have a huge amount of respect and admiration for the group and for the perseverance of everyone in the face of quite challenging circumstances. I hope the group persists, and that Ministers continue to see value in having such a pool of respected, informed and passionate advisors."

We look forward to meeting with you on the 8th.

Victoria MacLennan on behalf of DEDIMAG Members

Kaila Colbin, Cathy Hardinge, Dave Moskovitz, Greg Morgan, Mike Taitoko, Rohan MacMahon, Jordan Carter, Potaua Biasiny-Tule