

## Event backgrounder: University of Canterbury – Opening of the Rehua Building on 25 June 2019

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
<b>From:</b>	s9(2)(a) – Manager Delivery and Projects
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2019
<b>Reference:</b>	E-19-00776

### Purpose

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1. You are scheduled to speak at the University of Canterbury (UC) opening of its Rehua building on Tuesday 25 June 2019 from 2:30pm to 3:15pm on the Ilam Campus.
2. You have been invited to give a five to seven minute speech. Speech notes for this occasion have been prepared. It is requested that you participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony and photo opportunities.
3. Prior to the official opening of the Rehua building you will be meeting with UC's Chancellor, Sue McCormack, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cheryl de la Rey, and other members of the UC senior management team. You will also be taken on a tour of the UC campus, including viewing UC's new engineering and science facilities, the Rehua building and the UC Students Association building.
4. This backgrounder provides you with information on UC and the building you have been asked to open. Biographies of the UC Personnel are attached as Appendix 1. A background on UC's recovery after the earthquake is provided in Appendix 2.
5. We recommend that this document is released proactively.

### Background information about University of Canterbury

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6. In 2018, UC delivered approximately 14,000 EFTS and received approximately \$127 million in Student Achievement Component funding.
7. UC delivers qualifications in a broad suite of subject areas to a range of learners. UC also has a range of flexible study options for some programmes, including on-campus, distance, part-time, and flexible delivery alongside strong international links offering the opportunity for unique study experiences and the development of cultural understanding.
8. The Christchurch earthquakes had significant impact on many of the buildings across UC campuses. After the Crown gave recovery funding in 2013, UC developed The Futures Programme focusing on the built environment to transform the way it teaches, the students it attracts, and the types of graduates it produces. For more background information on UC's recovery from the earthquakes please refer to Appendix 2.

## **UC's response to the Christchurch terror attacks**

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9. UC took a strong response to the mosque attacks, with both staff and students activating support systems and accessing support. The consequences for academic achievement for those directly or indirectly affected is yet to be fully assessed. For example, some postgraduate students may complete their research and learning later than planned. At this stage, UC's postgraduate office is managing a range of enquiries about compassionate considerations which will, when resolved, provide a better insight into the academic impacts of the attacks. The TEC has offered to assist in any way it can.
10. UC has noted that the initial indications are that UC's and New Zealand's supportive and caring response to the 15 March incidents has mitigated any immediate risks of losing international or domestic enrolments. However, UC is continuing to closely monitor enrolments. The outlook for the remainder of 2019 remains uncertain but UC expects to see any potential impacts during the semester two intake.

## **Opening of the Rehua Building**

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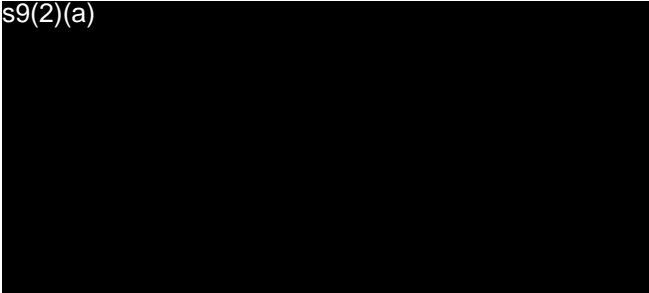
11. The Rehua building project involved a major strengthening and rebuild of the former Commerce building to accommodate the College of Education, Health and Human Development and a section of the College of Business and Law – in particular, UC's Executive Development Programmes and the UC Centre for Entrepreneurship. It should be noted that while the Crown did not directly contribute capital funding to the Rehua project, it was a key part of the UC Futures programme so was closely monitored by the TEC and the UC Futures Governance Oversight Group.
12. This project has seen the College of Education, Health and Human Development move from UC's Dovedale campus to the Ilam Campus. This will result in students being located much closer to UC's core facilities and student services and help achieve UC's aim of a consolidation of all faculties on the Ilam campus.
13. The building's leading-edge facilities provide large flexible learning spaces and feature the latest technology. Formal teaching spaces complement informal and social spaces to create a vibrant student-focused learning environment. Facilities include meeting and project rooms, breakout areas, a cultural function space, health clinics, a café, social spaces throughout the building's seven floors, a light-filled atrium connecting the north and south blocks, and a 'makerspace' to create, invent and learn in.

### **Opening attendees**

14. Key stakeholders that will be in attendance include:
  1. members of the UC Council and senior management team,
  2. student body representatives,
  3. UC foundation trustees and major donors,
  4. UC internal staff,
  5. construction project consultants, commercial industry partners,
  6. the Mayor of Christchurch, and
  7. Councillors and careers advisors from local and regional schools.

15. We have provided a biographies on UC Council and senior leadership in Appendix 1.

s9(2)(a)



Manager – Delivery and Projects  
Tertiary Education Commission

17 June 2019

**Hon Chris Hipkins**

Minister of Education

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## Appendix 1: Biographies UC Council

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### Sue McCormack- Chancellor, UC



Sue McCormack is a Ministerial appointment to Council and became Chancellor in 2019.

Sue has had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer for nearly 35 years. She set up the first female law firm in Christchurch 25 years ago, and in 2003 this was merged to establish Mortlock McMormack Law. She is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance, Planning and Resources Committee, Executive Committee and chairs the Vice-Chancellor Employment Committee.

Sue has also enjoyed doing pro bono work during her career. Her pro bono clients have included Dress For Success, Clown Doctors New Zealand, New Zealand Gynaecological Foundation and two school boards. Sue's firm is also committed to many charities including Christchurch City Mission, Ronald McDonald House, Air Rescue and The Wayne Francis Charitable Trust. Her term as Chancellor and a member of the Council will be completed on 31 May 2021.

### Cheryl de la Rey- Vice-Chancellor, UC



Cheryl de la Rey was previously Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, South Africa's largest university, holding that position since November 2009. In total she has eighteen years' experience as an executive in higher education in South Africa.

Vice-Chancellor de la Rey has served on a number of national and international committees and boards. She has served as vice-chairperson of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and she was the founding co-chairperson of the Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN) and the South Africa-Japan Universities Forum. She is currently a member of the executive board of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) and vice-chairperson of the Talloires Network, an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education. She has published books and several journal articles in her discipline, Psychology.

Vice-Chancellor de la Rey is registered as a psychologist by the Health Professions Council of South Africa, is a fellow of the Psychological Association of South Africa, a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

### Steve Wakefield- Pro Chancellor, UC



Steve Wakefield was appointed to the Council by the Minister of Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment. The Pro Chancellor acts as a deputy to the Chancellor

### **Lianne Dalziel- Mayor of Christchurch**



Lianne Dalziel is serving her second term as Mayor after serving for 23 years in the New Zealand Parliament, the last four terms as the Member of Parliament for Christchurch East. Lianne served as a Cabinet Minister in the fifth Labour Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Helen Clark (1999–2008).

During that time Lianne held a number of portfolios, including Immigration, Commerce, Food Safety, Women’s Affairs & Senior Citizens and associate roles in Education and Justice. She chaired the Commerce Select Committee from 2008–2011.

### **Sam Brosnahan- Council Member, UC Student Representative**



Sam is a final year student at University of Canterbury, New Zealand studying a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in International Business and a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language studies.

In 2014, he received a Prime Minister’s Scholarship for Asia to study at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics for one semester. Upon returning to New Zealand, he assumed the role of President at Global China Connection Canterbury, a non-profit, student-led organisation connecting students to opportunities in China.

### **Members of the UC Council:**

- Peter Ballantyne
- John Wood
- Catherine Drayton
- Warren Poh
- Professor Roger Nokes
- Malcom Scott
- Shayne Te Aika
- Keiran Horne

## **Appendix 2: Background on UC's recovery from the earthquakes**

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### **UC was significantly affected by the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011...**

1. Following the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes, UC sustained significant and extensive damage to its campus. Most of UC's 250 buildings were damaged and in the years following the earthquakes UC lost one-quarter of its students.

### **...and so the Crown agreed in 2013 to provide \$260 million to help UC rebuild its campus...**

2. Following the earthquakes, the Government made a decision to support all three Canterbury tertiary education institutions (TEIs) – Lincoln University, Ara Institute of Technology (formerly Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology), and UC – to help them recover from the effects of the earthquakes. It was considered that the extent of the damage was such that the viability of all three institutions was at risk without government support.
3. In October 2013, the Government agreed to provide Crown capital funding of up to \$260 million to contribute to the rebuilding of UC's damaged science and engineering facilities. In addition to the Crown's contribution, UC has been funding its \$1.2 billion capital programme to rebuild its campus through insurance receipts (UC agreed a \$550 million settlement in late-2014), cash reserves, revenue from operations, and borrowing.

### **...with the recovery being led by the UC Futures Programme...**

4. At the time of the earthquakes, much of UC's campus was also in need of modernisation. As part of the campus rebuild, UC has taken the opportunity to create modern learning environments and transform the way it delivers teaching and undertakes research- this is titled The Futures Programme and includes three major building projects:
  - a. **Canterbury Engineering the Future (CETF)** – a \$163 million rebuild and modernisation of UC's engineering precinct.
  - b. **Rutherford Regional Science and Innovation Centre (RRSIC)** – a \$226 million new build, multi-disciplinary innovative science research and teaching facility.
  - c. **The Rehua Building** – an \$81 million major strengthening and rebuild of the former Commerce Building to accommodate the College of Education and a section of the College of Business and Law.
5. The Futures Programme however, is wider than just the rebuilding of the campus. It includes changing the way UC teaches, the students it attracts, and the types of graduates it produces. As part of the Futures Programme, UC is introducing an institution-wide graduate profile that applies to all undergraduates. In addition to being competent in a core discipline, students will graduate with other key attributes – they will be employable, innovative and enterprising; biculturally competent and confident; engaged with the community; and, globally aware.

### **UC's recovery from the earthquake is continuing to progress well...**

6. UC has made considerable progress over the past five years as it recovers from the effects of the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes with the UC Futures Programme nearing completion.
7. The majority of UC's buildings have now been remediated with major projects, completed and operational. In February 2018, the Prime Minister opened the Ernest Rutherford building – which is the main Rutherford Regional Science and Innovation Centre (RRSIC) building.

8. The Rehua building, which you will be opening, was completed at the end of 2018 after numerous delays, with teaching beginning in this building in mid-January 2019.
9. Stage Two of the RRSIC, the Beatrice Tinsley building, is due for completion later in 2019. At that stage, UC will have completed all of its major rebuild projects. The final \$50 million of the Crown's \$260 million capital contribution to UC's recovery from the earthquakes was paid in October 2018 (B-18-00629 refers).

**...and enrolments continue to grow strongly**

10. Total EFTS at UC rose by 7% in 2018. This was driven by domestic EFTS growth of 6%, while full-fee international EFTS rose by 20%. These are by far the strongest growth rates recorded across the university sector in 2018.
11. Semester one 2019 data provided by UC show that total EFTS have increased by 6.2% in 2019. This is the fourth consecutive year that total enrolments have risen by between 5% and 7% at UC.
12. Domestic EFTS have increased by 5.8% while full-fee international EFTS have increased by 10.3%. As in recent years, the strongest growth has been in UC's College of Engineering (up 10%). However, all five of UC's colleges have shown an increase compared to 2018.
13. UC is forecasting 14,968 EFTS for the full 2019 year. This is only 3% below the level of EFTS recorded in 2010, which was a peak year for most tertiary education institutions and was immediately before the earthquakes. UC expect to record strong growth again in 2020 and surpass its 2010 enrolment levels, which will represent a full enrolment recovery for UC after a decline of nearly 25% in the years following the earthquakes. It should be noted that full-fee international enrolments surpassed UC's 2010 pre-earthquake level in 2017, while domestic enrolments are expected to hit pre-earthquake levels in 2021.