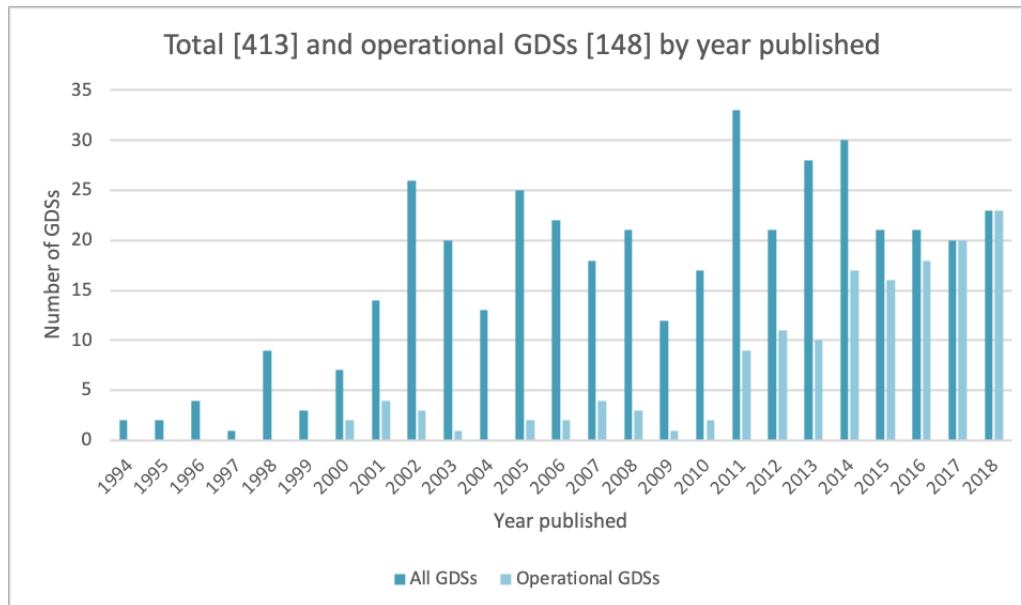


**MCGUINNESS INSTITUTE MEDIA RELEASE – 7 May 2019**  
***2018 GDS Index launched – 148 government department strategies found and analysed***

The McGuinness Institute is pleased to announce the launch of the *2018 GDS Index* and the Institute’s brand new publication *Government Department Strategies Handbook – He Puna Rautaki*. This concludes an extensive process of collecting, identifying, scoring, ranking and analysing all operational government department strategies (GDSs). A total of 148 GDSs were found to be in operation at 31 December 2018. The Institute has identified a total of 413 GDSs published since July 1994.



A launch event took place on Thursday 2 May, 2019. Institute Chief Executive Wendy McGuinness presented the key insights from the research to the audience, which included MPs, government department officials and other interested parties.

‘The *GDS Index NZ* project,’ says McGuinness, ‘aims to illustrate how New Zealand might strengthen GDSs to make them more effective, responsive, measurable, comparable and durable through public consultation, engagement and ownership.’

‘The assumption is that if government departments work hard to make the content of GDSs more useful, users of these strategies will be able to assess their quality and, where appropriate, work with government to deliver better outcomes more quickly.’

The top ranked GDS for the *2018 GDS Index* is the Ministry for Primary Industries’ (MPI) *Biosecurity Science Strategy for New Zealand – Mahere Rautaki Putaiao Whakamaru*. The *2018 GDS Index* rates the extent to which essential information is provided in the strategy document, rather than rating the quality of the strategy itself. This is so readers can assess the quality of the strategic approach for themselves. Scores are based on the *Scorecard* the Institute developed with the help of strategy experts.

The *2018 GDS Index* is the project’s third update. The *GDS Index NZ* website now holds downloadable PDFs of 413 GDSs that have been in operation since July 1994.

The top ten ranked GDSs in the 2018 GDS Index are:

- 1 *Biosecurity Science Strategy for New Zealand – Mahere Rautaki Putaiao Whakamaru* (Ministry for Primary Industries) (published October 2007)
- 2 *Rising to the Challenge – The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan* (Ministry of Health) (published December 2012)
- 3 *Tau Mai Te Reo – The Māori Language in Education Strategy* (Ministry of Education) (published June 2013)
- 4= *Safer Journeys: Road Safety Strategy 2010–2020* (Ministry of Transport) (published July 2013)
- 4= *Ka Hikiia – Accelerating Success: The Māori Education Strategy* (Ministry of Education) (published March 2010)
- 6 *Strategy to 2040 – He Kai Kei Aku Ringa* (Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment) (published November 2012)
- 7 *Cultural Sector Strategic Framework* (Ministry of Culture and Heritage) (published August 2014)
- 8 *Faiva Ora 2016–2021 – National Pasifika Disability Plan* (Ministry of Health) (published August 2017)
- 9 *Nation of Curious Minds – He Whenua Hibiri I Te Mahara: A National Strategic Plan for Science In Society* (jointly held between MoE and MBIE) (Ministry of Education) (published July 2014)
- 10 *National Statement of Science Investment* (Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment) (published October 2015)

### Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What's new in the 2018 GDS Index?

Q2: What was the highest-scoring GDS in the 2018 GDS Index?

Q3: How are GDSs scored?

Q4: Why does the Institute undertake GDS Index research?

Q5: Where can I find the working papers and other 2018 GDS Index publications?

Q6: When was the GDS Index last updated?

Q7: Where can I find PDFs of operational GDSs?

See [gdsindexnz.org](http://gdsindexnz.org) for the answers.

[ENDS]

### About the McGuinness Institute

The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future for New Zealand. The Institute undertakes research and analysis with a view to contributing to a national conversation on New Zealand's long-term future.

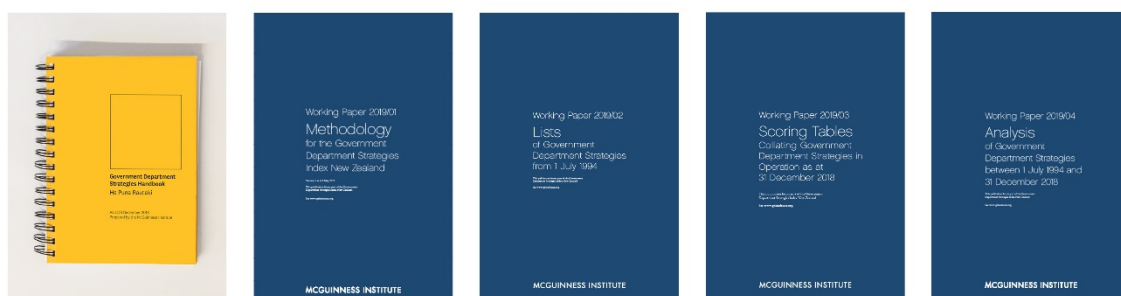
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## Publications



1. *Government Department Strategies Handbook – He Puna Rautaki*  
This handbook gives a one-page summary of key data for each operational GDS as at 31 December 2018. It is available for purchase for \$20 from the McGuinness Institute’s online shop – see <https://mcguinnessinstitute.bigcartel.com>.
2. *Working Paper 2019/01 Methodology for the Government Department Strategies Index New Zealand*  
This working paper explains the method and methodological background to the *GDS Index NZ* project as a whole, as well as the specifics of the *2018 GDS Index* update.
3. *Working Paper 2019/02 Lists of Government Department Strategies Between 1 July 1994 and 31 December 2018*  
This working paper provides lists of key information for the *2018 GDS Index*, such as the names of the 148 operational GDSs and the 413 GDSs that have existed between 1 July 1994 and 31 December 2018. It records and helps to track data such as GDS ownership, archival status, relationships with sectors, as well as useful context such as government leadership and priorities.
4. *Working Paper 2019/03 Scoring Tables Collating and Ranking Government Department Strategies in Operation as at 31 December 2018*  
This working paper provides a breakdown of the scoring for each GDS on the *2018 GDS Index*.
5. *Working Paper 2019/04 Analysis of Government Department Strategies Between 1 July 1994 and 31 December 2018*  
This working paper contains the analysis of the *2018 GDS Index*. It notes trends and observations, and gives examples of best practice for each sub-element the GDSs are scored against.

These publications can be found on the McGuinness Institute website publications page at [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications). Further information on the *GDS Index* can be found at [gdsindexnz.org](http://gdsindexnz.org), including downloadable PDFs of all operational and archived GDSs.

### Links of interest

McGuinness Institute website: [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org)

McGuinness Institute publications page: [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications)

*GDS Index* website (includes FAQs): [gdsindexnz.org](http://gdsindexnz.org)

*GDS Index* launch presentation (2 May 2019): [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/presentations](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/presentations)