



For NZSL version please go to: <https://youtu.be/YXKN2lc BSw>

## **Deaf Education is Changing An update for parents & caregivers 23rd October 2018**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Over the past 14 months, we have carried out extensive consultation with parents, staff and students about the future of deaf education and our services. At the end of 2017, your feedback helped the Combined Board agree on 7 new strategic goals to direct our work.

This letter is to update you on the progress of goal 2, *“Develop one new national organisational structure that enables excellent educational outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing learners New Zealand wide”*.

In late September, the Board wrote to the Minister of Education (Chris Hipkins) with a proposal to merge the two Deaf Education Centres. The Board believes that a single national organisation will deliver a better service for our students in several ways, including:–

- A single national organisation with clear, consistent practices throughout the country
- Better relationships with parent groups and other organisations who support our work
- Straightforward and simple communication
- Clear, consistent expectations for our service to students

Having a national structure will allow us to ensure we deliver services that are both accessible and equitable for every learner, no matter where in the country they live. It will also enable us to make the best use of our resources. If the proposed merger goes ahead, we will of course look to retain the best of each centre, along with the rich history and taonga that each has collected over the years.

The merger represents an exciting new phase in developing deaf education services throughout New Zealand. The Board will continue to keep you informed of our progress and will shortly seek your views about the proposal. In the meantime we have attached some additional information on the background to this proposal and what might happen next.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback please contact the secretary of the Combined Board, Jill le Prou - [change@deafeducation.nz](mailto:change@deafeducation.nz) Also, if you are a parent or family member of a deaf or hard of hearing student, and you did not receive this directly from us, please use the [change@deafeducation.nz](mailto:change@deafeducation.nz) email to let us know, and we can update our database.

Kind regards



Rachel Douglas  
Board Chair, van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centres



Terri Johnstone  
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