

## **Success for All – Every School, Every Child Aggregating sensory resources**

### **Key messages from 24 August 2011**

Staff from the three sensory schools updated their reports on visits to enrolling schools and finalising of service arrangements for 2012. The sensory schools are now considering options for more staff in 2012. Some enrolling schools will have staffing transferred back to them and arrangements for that will be finalised by the end of term 3.

The Principals from the team continue to meet with stakeholder representatives and parent groups to update them on progress with the Aggregation of Sensory Resources Project.

Study Award applications close at the end of September and registered teachers with an interest in the education of students who are Deaf and hearing impaired, or Blind and low vision are being encouraged to apply.

Another letter from the Ministry, will go to all schools with ORS sensory students who will have their staffing aggregated, updating them on progress and plans for 2012. The letter will go at the same time as the 2012 Staffing and Funding Entitlement Notices in early September. The Circular that goes with the Staffing and Funding Notices will note that there will be changes in 2012 to the staffing entitlement. The details of the changes will be sent to individual schools in December. Enrolling school's staffing notices in December will show the ORS sensory student by name and the sensory school the staffing will be provided to.

Separate letters will go to private schools explaining the changes that are going to happen for state schools. As private schools do not get staffing entitlement there will be no change for them in 2012. Private schools receive the ORS 0.1 or 0.2 as a cash grant and changes to this and other cash resources ie teacher's aide funding, will be considered in 2012.

Special Schools will be informed that the Deaf Education Centres will transfer staffing for any students enrolled in special schools.

Senior staff from the DEC's and BLENNZ will connect with Ministry of Education, Special Education service managers over the next month to ensure local arrangements are in place to manage any concerns as we go into the transition for aggregation in 2012.

The next project management team meeting is scheduled for 4 October 2011.

## **Background to Aggregating Sensory Resources**

This policy initiative is the result of:

- feedback to the Review of Special Education discussion document. The majority of the feedback came from parents. Educational staff, advocacy and interest groups also contributed.
- the need to get a more flexible and responsive service which meets the individual needs of children with sensory impairments
- the Ministry of Education working with the sensory schools over time. In particular, this initiative follows on from the work of sensory schools to match student need with specialist teacher capacity.

## **Benefits of policy initiative for children**

- allows for more flexibility in how and what resources are provided
- allows for redefinition of types of workforces to most appropriately meet student need
- will strengthen relationships between sensory schools and regular schools which have children with a sensory impairment on their rolls
- will allow for more direct access to specialist teachers
- supports specialist teachers to manage workloads efficiently to meet the needs of individual students
- allows opportunity to strengthen and build professional development of those working around children with sensory impairments
- contributes to lifting confidence of schools through providing better training and understanding
- will increase access to a wider range of services by families
- strengthen collaborative approach of the team to supporting the learning needs of individual children.

## **Contacts**

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