

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEE STAFF ELECTION

Combined Board of Trustees for Kelston Deaf Education Centre & van Asch Deaf Education Centre

Candidates' Statements

Krista Clifford

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335269091/85f6cdd9b1>

Tena koutou katoa,

My name is Krista Clifford and I would like to stand again for the staff representative on the Combined Board.

The last 3 years being on the board has been a tremendous experience! It has been an honour of mine, meeting Deaf Education Centres' staff in many parts of NZ, sharing their passion for what they do. I feel the real work is only just starting with the merger recently confirmed. I truly believe we are at the forefront of an exciting era in Deaf education and with the wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills I have along with all I have learnt over the last 3 years, I feel I can continue to contribute to the collective Board decision making process.

As a Deaf person, I have a long association with Deaf education, having been educated in both Deaf unit and mainstream settings. I am also a qualified teacher of the deaf with over 20 years experience. In 2000, I left NZ to work at the Claremont Project, Hobart in Tasmania which was widely acclaimed for its bilingual approaches. I returned to NZ after 5 years with a strong commitment to deaf/hearing partnerships, as we all want to make a real difference to our students' lives.

Currently, I work as a Mentor for our Teacher of the Deaf trainees. My various past roles/experiences provide me with the unique opportunity to connect and work collaboratively with staff from different departments within both DEC's and with mainstream schools.

My experiences growing up as a deaf child and working in Deaf education has equipped me with rich knowledge and understanding of deaf students' needs and the services we provide.

I believe I am well placed to support the Combined Board decision-making process to ensure we deliver equitable services to all deaf students throughout New Zealand and encourage staff to be the best we can be. I would appreciate your vote for me as staff representative.

Jillian Scammell

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335273659/6fd83959d0>

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Takitimu tōku maunga
Ko Mātāura tōku awa
Ko Kai Tahu toku iwi
Nō Murihiku ahau
Ko Jillian tōku ingoa

Kia ora. I am passionate about empowering our young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. Working in Deaf education has been exciting for me thus far, with many and varied opportunities to develop strategies which I believe both directly and indirectly maximise the potential of our ākonga to succeed both at school and beyond.

My career has been in both education and health, which ultimately brings the two values of academic achievement and well-being together as one. I would say therefore, that my approach is holistic. I have also been involved in a voluntary capacity, as a senior leader, in a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations, which works to promote education, culture and peace in New Zealand. My responsibilities there also include education and pastoral care.

I am New Zealand born and raised with distant Māori ancestry in the Deep South and close family ties to Onuku Marae on Banks Peninsula. I have fostered a deep understanding of Te Ao Māori and the complexities of living as an ethnic minority in a world shaped by a majority culture. This I believe gives me a propensity to begin to understand also the issues our population, who are Deaf, face in a world which is predominantly hearing.

I have a Masters Degree in Māori and Indigenous Leadership, a Post Graduate diploma in Specialist Teaching-endorsement Deaf, a Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning and a Bachelor of Arts in Māori and Film Studies. My thesis (Masters) was entitled "Whakarongo mai- I am Māori. I am Deaf" which was a research paper into the adoption of a Māori Deaf identity.

As a Board member I believe I would bring a holistic view of education and the New Zealand context in which it sits. My primary focus is to lift the achievement of our rangatahi whilst recognising also that their well-being underpins their successses. I am people-focused and can easily build a rapport with students, fellow educators and whānau. I have also fostered collaborative relationships with a strong network of people outside of our organisation who are committed to raising the bar for our young people, including our local tribal organisation. At this exciting time as we merge as one Deaf Education Provision I believe my skills in research could contribute to creating an innovative, informed, equitable and progressive service.

Nāku noa, Jillian Scammell

Chris Sinclair

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335274406/7c9c049c36>

My name is Chris Sinclair and I am standing for the Combined Board of Trustees of van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centre.

Who am I?

I have three children, Summer (10) who is in year 5, Charlotte (9) in Year 4 and Elijah (3) who is climbing the walls at preschool. Elijah is also unilaterally Deaf.

Much of my time is spent between family, and working with Deaf Sports as we support and organise events for the Deaf community of New Zealand.

What Experience I bring to the Board?

I've had a unique upbringing, having experienced both mainstream and also a school for the Deaf, but then experiencing life in a bilingual setting. Now working in Deaf Education, having 'been through it as a child' my experience is what I can bring to the table to benefit all our Deaf and Hard of Hearing tamariki, and also being a parent of a Deaf son also brings another perspective as well.

I've also had lots of leadership experience through the Deaf community, with recent occasions being organising two successful High School summer camps, alongside a great team who worked collaboratively to ensure success. Working in an executive role in Deaf Sports, where the committee is currently organising the New Zealand Deaf Games for 2020, and sending the biggest Deaf sports team to the Asia Pacific Deaf Games is also something I am proud of, as this is demonstrating that my actions are having an impact in the community through transparency and communication.

Why do I want to stand for the Board of Trustees?

With our upcoming merger, not only management decisions are needed, but experiences of Deaf people who have been involved in Deaf education not only as a student, but as a teacher as well, are what would be vital to shape the future of Deaf Education. This is the time now to ensure the changes that happen, are what will enhance the education and language access of our tamariki, as well as enhance the work we do in our roles.

I would ensure there is high quality communication, transparency around issues that affect our children, staff and our community. I would do this through having an effective and best-practice relationship built between myself, the board and the community.

Thank you for considering my application to be your Board of Trustees Representative.