



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

## **UPDATE FOR PARENTS 22 January 2018**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Recently we have been doing quite extensive consultation with parents, staff and students about the future of Deaf Education and our services. Thank you for working with us on this. Your feedback has been really useful and has helped us shape our strategic direction for 2018 and beyond.

At present, providing Deaf Education Services in New Zealand is the responsibility of two Centres serving the whole of the country. These are van Asch Deaf Education Centre in Sumner, Christchurch and Kelston Deaf Education Centre in Auckland. Between them, they support more than 2,000 Deaf and hard of hearing children nationwide. In 2012, the Ministry of Education combined the Trustee Boards of each Centre into one national Board. This has allowed opportunities for uniting the strengths of both Centres and sharing skills, knowledge and resources.

At the end of 2017 the Combined Board agreed on 7 strategic goals to direct our work

These goals include an exciting new development which is the Board's intention to create one new organisational structure to deliver a more efficient service nationwide. Having a national structure will allow us to make the best use of our buildings and properties and ensure we deliver services that are both accessible and equitable for every learner, no matter where in the Country they live.

The Combined Board's Strategic Goals are: detailed below-

- 1. Develop a holistic progressive service for Deaf and hard of hearing learners that maximises educational, social and emotional outcomes and is accessible, equitable and efficient in its delivery.**
- 2. Develop one new national organisational structure that enables excellent educational outcomes for Deaf and hard of hearing learners New Zealand-wide.**
- 3. Inform decisions, priorities, and resourcing by utilising data, evidence based best practice and research that underpin child centred values of Excel, Choose, Grow and Belong.**
- 4. Build and maintain strong, collaborative relationships with the Deaf community, including external stakeholders.**
- 5. Use and manage financial resources to provide the maximum educational benefit for our learners within budget and contractual frameworks.**
- 6. Lift student achievement through effective pedagogy (*teaching practices*) for all of our Deaf and hard of hearing learners.**
- 7. Align property and infrastructure to support a nationwide service delivery model.**

These Strategic Goals represent an exciting new phase in developing Deaf Education Services throughout New Zealand. We welcome your support and feedback as you make this journey with us.

We will continue to keep you up to date with our progress and invite you to keep informed by visiting the Parent section of the websites for van Asch DEC and KDEC DEC.

Kind regards



Terri Johnstone  
Limited Statutory Manager  
KDEC



Rachel Douglas  
Board Chair