



NELSON BAYS RTL B SERVICE

Newsletter: Term 3, 2012

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*He orange mou, he orange mo tatou
What benefits one, benefits all*

LEAD PRINCIPAL COMMENT:

The Nelson Bays Service has advertised two permanent positions to be based in Nelson following the resignation of two long serving RTL B. Anne Carnahan and Barbara Long have indicated that they intend to retire at the end of this year. Their service and dedication has been greatly appreciated. There will be an opportunity to acknowledge them towards the end of Term 4.

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that the Supplementary Learning Support (SLS) and the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTL B) services are to be amalgamated for the start of the 2013 school year. The amalgamated service will provide a service to those students who would previously have received SLS support. This will be possible as additional positions will be allocated to RTL B clusters as a result of the amalgamation. We await confirmation from the Ministry as to the number of additional positions this will create. When confirmed the vacancies will be advertised in the New Zealand Education Gazette.

Questions and answers, and further information, to let you know more about the amalgamation process will be available on the TKI website at <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/>.

Because of the Ministry's decision we have begun the process of reviewing our current accommodation needs to ensure that we are able to house the additional positions and current RTL B's appropriately.

As an outcome of the SLS consultation process, and other work, the Minister of Education agreed this week that RTL B clusters will decide how to organise their current and additional RTL B to meet the needs of schools, teachers and individual students in their clusters. We welcome suggestions and feedback from stakeholders as to how they see the amalgamation of SLS operating and ensuring we provide the best possible service for these students.



Michael

CLUSTER MANAGER COMMENT:

Since last writing there has certainly been a lot to focus on within the Nelson Bays Cluster. The old saying that 'life is not a sprint, it is a marathon' has helped a lot of late as I have applied it to this new position.

I have been currently doing day visits with each RTL B. In doing this I have visited many schools and met with Principals, SENCO's, staff, students, parents and had the chance to begin understandings related the kaupapa of each of our schools. Thank you to all who have given time so far and I have appreciated the professional discussions we have been able to have. Between now and the term end I will have had a day with each of our RTL B. This also forms the second level of the RTL B Performance Appraisal process that is being trialled this year. We are looking at effectiveness, capability and capacity as areas for

affirming good practice. RTL B have been asked to request discussion time with Principal/SENCO from a selected 3 of their schools and jointly complete a simple 3 stage questionnaire. It is hoped that this part of the process is an opportunity for both transparency and building towards a robust service delivery that evidences better outcomes for students. It will also ensure that as a Cluster we continue to work towards reaching the Ministry goal where 80% of schools will be demonstrating inclusive practice and that 20% will be well on the way.

At the recent Cluster Manager forum I attended in Wellington it was mentioned that many parents are still reporting bullying in schools. We were advised that Yvonne Hope (ex-special education) will lead a task force in this area looking at the issue for not only high needs students but all students on the continuum of needs. In other words it was about supporting schools to be ready for such students and associated issues. This is where collaborative work with our service often has a very good impact.

Anne Tuffin from MOE has recently requested an A4 snapshot of students' length of time on RTL B rolls. This information will now be reported on at the beginning of each term. As a result of transformation RTL B are being asked to review how referral goals are being set, how evidenced outcomes are being reported and asking questions based on 'why?' Why is the work requested and why am I doing what I am doing? This is based on the MOE Statement of Intent document (2012-2017) which looks at improving educational outcomes. Some RTL B cases are long term but goals will need to be evaluated and reset which means the RTL B will write another referral relevant to this new information. Length of time on roll and intervention review will be under a lot more scrutiny. We do appreciate schools' support with this. We always aim to achieve the goals set but sometimes we do not – we get a different result. Therefore the data gathered must inform the parties involved of where the outcomes are and the realignment of the intervention strategies in places.

RTL B Practice Leaders (PL's) were appointed this term. There are 3 positions supporting RTL B practice – these were filled by Hazel Oates, Carolyn White and Fiona Young and 1 position for supporting RTL B with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) practice – this position was filled by Janet Mossop. Communities of Practice have been set up with the PL's. They are currently working on the consistent keeping of case files as well as effective practice across the cluster.

The MOE/RTL B co-work delivery of the Collaboration for Success rollout has been very successful in many schools already and will be completed by early Term 4.

Looking forward to working further with you all and thank you for the strong level of support across the cluster – it has been noticed at a national level.



Lyn Evans

S U P P O R T I N G A L L T O S U C C E E D