



Message from the Board Chair

NZSL Link: <https://vimeo.com/377462279/fdb121fcc2>

Ki ora Koutou

As we move towards becoming one new Centre for Deaf Education, there are several exciting developments to tell you about. Firstly, we have employed a fantastic design company called Plato Creative. They are considering the feedback from staff, students, families and other groups to help us choose a new name and design a new website and logo for our new organisation.

We have worked hard to ensure that parents, students, staff, wider community, Maori and Deaf are all represented in this process and have formed a reference group to guide our work. The group contains all the skills and knowledge we need at each meeting. We hope to reveal the new name and logo around March next year.

Other exciting news relates to extra funding we have received from the Ministry of Education for three new NZSL hubs throughout the country. We looked at current NZSL Immersion activities for mainstream students across the country and I was pleasantly surprised to see the wide range of programmes and activities currently available. As a result of this process the Wellington area was selected as the first of three areas to benefit from the additional investment.

Next year, we will build on the existing limited NZSL Hub programmes and deliver a 'blended approach' of NZSL immersion initiatives for the wider Wellington area. This will include the extension of current NZSL Hub programmes, as well as setting up virtual NZSL immersion programmes from Wellington which will provide networked access to NZSL projects and tuition to other learners around the country. Moving forward, we will identify two further areas over the next 18 months for NZSL hub expansion. I can't tell you how excited I am to see this happening!

The Education Review Office (ERO) has been evaluating our progress since 2016 with a focus on improving outcomes for learners. In October ERO provided both schools with a

Longitudinal Progress Summary and have just concluded its 1-2 year evaluation process. ERO appreciated the progress made by both DEC's on the agreed priorities. I am heartened by this and I'm sure you will join me in congratulating the senior leaders and staff for their absolute commitment and focus to improving student outcomes. This is evidenced in ERO's summary comment below:

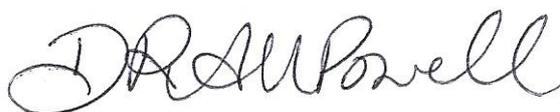
"Leaders are continuing to make significant changes and much needed improvements. There is a strong student-centred focus that is driving improvement and supporting adults to make decisions that better serve deaf and hard of hearing students. The collaboration and communication between the two DEC's, ERO, the MoE, LSMs, principals and other leaders has been pivotal in promoting the increased pace and urgency of targeted change and improvement." (Longitudinal Progress Summary October 2019)

Finally, our DEC Facebook is running a weekly NZSL news bulletin for students which is a truly fantastic resource. I encourage you to check out the latest one. This is just a trial so we would love to hear your feedback.

<https://www.facebook.com/deafeducationcentres/videos/426495724961494/>

Finally, I hope you enjoy our 2019 Journal which will be available soon. Have a wonderful Christmas and fabulous holiday break. See you back here in 2020!

Na mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Powell
Chair of the Combined Board of Trustees