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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Greetings to you all,

Your executive has recently had their termly meeting. Graeme as you know is on sabbatical in the UK. This is a brief update for you all.

Elections for SEPAnz executive regional representatives.

All regions have recently held their elections for regional reps to sit on the executive. Results are as follows:

Northern:	Sally Wilkinson - Blomfield, Whangarei	Judith Nel – Parkside, Pukekohe, Auckland
Central:	Barrie Wickens – Kaka St, Tauranga	Diane Whyte – Fairhaven, Napier
Southern:	Graeme Daniel – Allenvale, Christchurch	Janine Harrington – Halswell, Christchurch

Congratulations to you all.

Special Education Update.

Julie Hook. National Manager, Practice, Special Education | Sector Enablement and Support has given me a brief update to share with you all.

- *Over the next 2 1/2 weeks David Wales is meeting with each of the Districts/ areas to talk through setting up local area implementation trials that aim to develop a more joined up approach across SE, RTL B and other specialist services*
- *There is a national Service Design working group that will be developing a framework for additional support for learning, tools and practice guides - identification of need, planning, service descriptions that look at more joined up approach and less reliant on criteria.*
- *The perspective of special schools will be brought to this group by Louise Doyle. Louise's involvement in this group will be help us to look for opportunities to test out ideas with the special school sector.*

Please find at the end of this newsletter an email that Davis Wales has shared with MOE staff. It gives a sense that the future of special education will have a focus on local service delivery.

NZSTA/ MOE/ SEPAnz PLD day.

At the beginning of term three NZSTA planned and funded a professional learning and development day for the 28 'Day Special Schools'. The purpose of the PLD day was to; share expectations around Charter requirements, begin investigating how we might collectively report (to the Ministry) on student progress and achievement and also to network with other schools.

Elaine Hines from NZSTA has collated the feedback from the day and sent it to all those who attended. There was is overwhelming support for sessions like this in the future. As follow up, I have been in contact with Sally Jackson (MOE) to enquire as to how we might work together with MOE to create a way to report on student achievement. We will keep you posted on any future developments.

SEPAAnz – looking to the future.

- The executive currently is made of 2 x regional representatives for each region =6 and also the past president.
- The SEPAAnz organisation has a memberships of approximately 37 schools.
- In terms of finances it survives on the subs of the membership and also the income from conferences.
- The new conference schedule means that conferences that bring in income have decreased.
- The costs of the executive meeting each term is quite expensive.
- The nature of special education is changing. The indication from the special ed update is that whatever may or may not eventuate – it appears (from David Wales communications) that support for schools will be more localised.

As Graeme mentioned in his August newsletter we need to reflect on our current structure in terms of sustainability. So how might SEPAAnz organise itself in the future?

Some ideas were surfaced at the recent executive meeting about how we might organise ourselves, but also about how we might reduce expenses.

- I. Reducing the number of representatives from each region. The rationale being that a) we are only a small number of schools b) it could reduce expenses incurred by meetings, c) do we need two reps to disseminate information to the membership? (Communications from the President contain full and detailed information about our sector's issues).
- II. Increasing the subscriptions for membership.
- III. Reduce number of face to face meetings for executive – replacing some with Skype type alternative.

There will be an opportunity for further discussion at our Annual Meeting in November.

SEPAAnz conference.

SEPAAnz Annual Conference:	16 & 17 November, 2015
Venue:	James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington
Conference cost:	\$300:00 (Registration includes Speakers fees/expenses, morning and afternoon teas, lunches and conference dinner)

At the latest count there are about 20 people registered. Please find conference information on the SEPAAnz website. www.sepanz.org.nz

Thank you to Gary Quarless – Goldfields Paeroa and Barrie Wickens – Kaka St – Tauranga for their organisation of our conference.

Don't miss out on this chance to meet up with your colleagues and enjoy some learning and social opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming break, taking time to rest and refresh!

Nga mihi nui

Louise Doyle

EMAIL FROM DAVID WALES.

Sent: Friday, 4 September 2015 1:47 p.m.

To: DL SES Level 3; DL SE Northern Region; DL SE Central North Region; DL SE Central South Region; DL SE Southern Region

Cc: DL Special Education Leadership Team

Subject: Special Education Update forums – thank you and next steps

Hello everyone

I want to update you on our Special Education Update progress and next steps, including meetings I'll be holding soon with area and regional managers and RTLB cluster leaders.

It's timely to emphasise that the Update isn't fixing something that's broken. We're building on a rich legacy of people and system strengths to broaden our efforts from improved participation to a sharper focus on achievement for all.

I'd like to thank those of you who helped organise the recent engagement forums. You did a great job and I really appreciate your efforts.

Over 3500 people attended 156 meetings, including the 34 additional forums for parents and others (the last meetings were held yesterday).

We've had some great feedback about the meetings, including from our own Ministry people. We had both endorsements and constructive feedback on the proposed improvements. The forums were a significant investment in fostering trust and confidence in our services and efforts to improve.

Some have asked why we didn't set out to consult more widely from the start. It's important to remember we're not starting from scratch but building on the 2010 Review of Special Education. We decided to work with representative groups and some individuals to gather a range of views and to work face-to-face with people we already have relationships with.

We heard that more people, particularly parents and education sector people, wanted to have a say so we held the extra meetings. We had great attendance at these which resulted in much richer information.

Next steps

Over the next month we will analyse what people told us and prepare a summary of key themes. After we present the engagement findings to Ministers we'll publish and widely communicate the summary with an outline of priority service design and system improvements.

I am committed to involving our own people in the implementation. We want to progress changes locally and use evaluation findings to inform the ongoing national service design and system improvements. I need to understand how area and regional managers can best contribute to implementation.

Regional visits

In the coming weeks I'll be travelling to meet with local management teams and others to workshop the best ways to strengthen and build on local innovation and improvements, in line with what we've heard from the engagement. This local work will inform further decisions next year.

We'll also discuss how to best involve local stakeholders. I want us to build on recent engagement efforts with parents, education and disability sector colleagues and others as we design and implement improvements. We need to do this effectively.

We all share an aspiration to make our system work better for those children and young people who need extra help. I want to harness our collective efforts to achieve the best results.

You'll likely hear more about these local discussions from your managers and others. I'll update you all again when we've agreed how the Update work programme will operate locally, with national support, and have worked through phasing.

Feel free to share this email with those Ministry or sector colleagues who will appreciate it. I will send an update to our Wellington network of sector and disability colleagues and include one in the next School Leader and Early Learning Bulletins. [You can read more about the forums on our website.](#)

Regards

David

David Wales | National Director Special Education | Sector Enablement & Support

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