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“It’s not where, it’s how”  
“Ehara I te wāhi ko te tino take, engari me pēhea”

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**SEPANZ Executive:**

**Northern/Auckland:** [Sally Wilkinson, Blomfield Special School \(Secretary\)](#)

**Central:** [Barry Wickens, Tauranga Special School \(2016 NZEI Rep.\)](#)

[Diane Whyte, Fairhaven Special School \(Treasurer\)](#)

**Southern:** [Graeme Daniel, Allenvale School \(Past President\),](#)

[Janine Harrington, Halswell College](#)

**PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

**May, 2016**

Tēnā koutou katoa Greetings to you all.

The dust has settled concerning the impact from Reviews such as – Education Act, Vulnerable Children’s Act, and the Special Education Update. Hopefully our sector is up to speed with policies/procedures in place. Of course policy writing is one thing – implementation (fermentation) takes time and concerted effort. Should anyone be struggling don’t hesitate to contact your Executive Member and we will support as best as we can. The Ministry of Education has published, via the Web Site, various Guidelines, Policy templates and resources – do avail yourselves of these as they can be useful.

There are on-going work-streams addressing additional concerns – eg: Health and Safety. SEPANZ has been involved in all working groups pertaining to our schools which is reassuring.

Reminder: The revised *EOTC Guidelines 2016 - Bringing the Curriculum Alive* are now available online for download on the [TKI website](#). The focus for the review was to ensure the guidelines were compliant with:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- The Vulnerable Children Act 2014
- The Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016.

These guidelines support the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and align with and complement the newly released [health and safety practical guide for boards of trustees and school leaders](#).

Concerning the **Special ed. UpDate** - Hopefully SEPAnz Members are being invited to, and attending, Up-Date meetings, and that you feel informed.

### **Communities of Learning:**

A number of our Schools are now members of a C.O.I. It will be very useful if we can share information at the SEPAnz Annual General Meeting which will be held during the:

**SEPAnz Moot on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> November - Grand Chancellor – James Cook Hotel in Wellington**

### **Health & Safety Sector Reference Group:**

This working party was responsible for many of the very useful Guidelines and Resources on the TKI Website. The next meeting will address matters such as Sport and Work Experience.

### **Restraint & Seclusion Workshops *or* Understanding Behaviour – Responding Safely:**

Guidelines have been developed. They will be trialled across a representative group of schools by mid-June. Diane Whyte, Graeme Daniel and I attended the first workshop to share the DRAFT resource and discussed how it may be rolled out across the education sector. Ultimately processes, programmes and strategies should be in place across all schools concerning the elimination of “seclusion” and the minimisation of “restraint”. A sensible approach has been adopted which includes clear definitions, best practice guidelines and supporting resources. Diane (Central), Graeme (Southern) and I (Northern/Auckland) will share the Draft Presentation about the Guidelines with as many of you as possible for your feedback please.

### **Key Competency Pathway resource**

Kindly continue to order the booklets through Julie King for the time being.

Gary Quarless, Goldfields Special School, has established a “tight team” to review the KCP resource and to re-write aspects as required. The intended/suggested changes will be shared with SEPAnz Members for feedback, and trialled in some schools (volunteers please). The final resource will be subject to a moderation process. It is a huge undertaking and we appreciate the pro-active stance taken by Gary and the team. Should any school want additional information about the project kindly contact Gary Quarless at Goldfields Special School, Paeroa.

### **Satellite Provision:**

At a meeting in December 2015 Brian Coffey, regional managers and SEPANZ identified a need to develop a more strategic approach to planning and decision making for satellite units. In Christchurch and Auckland projects have been established to take a systematic approach to the establishment of satellite units

During April, 2016, a work-stream has been established, led by Jill Ford (MOE), to “develop and document shared vision, options and implementation pathways for the future direction of satellite unit provision within the context of the wider network of schools.”

As a result of this work the Ministry of Education hopes to have:

- a strategic, evidence based approach to planning and decision making about satellite growth,
- improved alignment between property investment, priorities set by Communities of Learning (COL) and local networks, inclusive practice, and student achievement,
- and a greater range of flexible schooling options for learners who require additional support.
- It is intended that students and their families will have: improved access to a range of inclusive schooling options and confidence their individual needs and choices are responded to across school settings

Graeme and I discussed this project with Jill Ford and Brian Coffey. It is clear that the SEPAnz perspective and suggestions will be taken on board as this work progresses and we appreciated the open and frank conversations. Jill will visit Auckland based satellites as background to the project.

### **Section 9 Process:**

Members will recall that Graeme Daniel and Louise Doyle had lengthy discussions throughout 2015 concerning the application of the S9 process. On 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 Graeme and I met with Brian Coffey and David Wales to reach agreement about an S9 process that is transparent and that everyone can subscribe to. The discussion was positive in that neither David nor Brian disagreed with our premise. The outcome is that: MOE Wellington will ensure that all of their Regions understand the clear S9 process. It is not open to individual interpretation.

It is important that we continue to enrol those Students who really require the programming only deliverable via a Specialist School, and that their Parents/Caregivers agree that the programme is necessary and appropriately provided by the Special School.

In the event that a Special School Principal signs a Section 9 form along with the Family, and an MOE-SE Manager declines to, please firstly discuss with that person and find out precisely why they have declined the Section 9. If you are dissatisfied with that explanation then contact Brian Coffey in Wellington and if you like, cc myself and/or Graeme into that document. We all need to clear up any inconsistencies across the country as soon as possible.

### **New process for Reporting Progress and Achievements for Students working within one curriculum level for an extended period of time:**

Although Sally Jackson and her Team have this work in progress we have not received any update to the information I shared in the Term One Newsletter. You will have experienced the same frustration upon receiving the “Education, Information & Analysis Evidence, Data & Knowledge” letter from Sophie Koster and Dean Alexander setting out your NCEA/ National Standards data results! At this point all that I can advise is to “hang in there” it is a work in progress and there is light at the end of that particularly dark tunnel!!

### **SESTA:**

The transport provision Contracts – mainly for Auckland – are under-going a three yearly review. James Le Marquand will represent our Schools in that process – thank you James.

### **Regional Cluster Meetings:**

I am delighted to be attending the Central Region Meeting this term in Whanganui. Many “mumble” years ago, I attended another meeting there - at the time it was important that

everyone felt “linked” and that we could develop strategy as a united front. I believe that remains as important an issue today as it was then. Open Conversations –our *modus operandi*!

That sentiment was often uttered by **Ed Davidson** – one of our founding fathers. Rest in peace Dear Friend your wonderful contribution is remembered!

### **New Zealand Order of Merit and other prestigious awards!**

I have realised that some of you are hiding your achievements!! Ed Davidson (Sir Keith Park) was honoured during his life time, and I believe Kathy Dooley (Mt Richmond) and Erin Cairns (Ruru) have been as well - ???. It would be lovely to establish a roll of honour for our organisation! Please let me know if your contribution has been recognised or if you know of one of our members having received an Award.

Despite his reticence about telling us of his recent award, Graeme has kindly shared a photo from the presentation ceremony at Government House, Wellington – and I do have permission to publish it!! Graeme was awarded an MNZM in the 2016 New Year’s Honours for services to Special Education. Congratulations Graeme!



***Graeme and Min Daniel – Government House, Wellington!***

Trust that this term goes very well for everyone.

Please don’t hesitate to contact your Executive Member for support at any time.

Kind regards to all.

Judith