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

SEPA NZ Executive:

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

Central: [Barrie 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 **June-July , 2016**

Tēnā koutou katoa. Greetings to you all. Trust that everything in your world is going well – and please remember if you require support we are all here to assist!

Executive Meeting: The Executive met in Wellington in June. With 17 items on the Agenda it was a busy and productive two days. By meetings end we had a “brief action list” with 22 to-do items on it!

Central Cluster Meeting:

It was a pleasure to attend the Central Cluster meeting in beautiful Whanganui! Arahunga has continued to expand their large Outreach programme as well as re-develop their School provision in Whanganui.

We were able to share frustrations and seek solutions. Now is the time to collaborate as a New Zealand wide Special Education provision and to ensure that we all have reciprocal, co-operative relationships with our MOE Special Education Districts.

Peter Hughes established the “new protocols”, David Wales has ensured that the vision was implemented and Katrina Casey has stated that Peter’s strategies will be followed while a new Secretary of Education is sought. Therefore don’t hesitate to contact your Executive member in the event you are concerned about inappropriate interactions with a “local MOE group” – we have a mandate from David to follow such issues up with him.

Conversely we have the responsibility to reciprocate and be true professionals in our own right.

Salisbury and Halswell:

We have received a letter from David Wales concerning the proposed closure of Salisbury. David writes that due to the small roll of Salisbury School which was an anticipated effect of the implementation of the Intensive Wraparound Service, the MOE is considering the closure and disestablishment of Salisbury.

In addition, the Ministry is considering an application from Halswell for a change to a co-educational status. That is placement for girls with high impact behavioural concerns could be possible at Halswell.

The Ministry would like to hear views from the sector as they consider all options.

CLICK:

Sincere thanks to James Le Marquand for completing the outstanding items concerning CLICK. James has advised that previous data posted with Click won't go into the "pond" because "the pond is an individual thing and we couldn't transfer the information". There are issues with process and permissions and property rights. The content is on google docs and can be accessed by invitation from Julie King. James advises that the offer will be open for a year so people/schools can have access to their previously posted data. They may enter that into the pond should they so choose.

James says: *"I will get a message sent via the old click coordinator network that Julie has got the Click database on Google drive. **If anyone wishes to access the Click shared database they can email her at info@clickspicednz.com and she will send them the link.** It is our intention that this will be available for at least the next year. This gives owners the opportunity to retrieve or share in the pond. (The pond requires an individual to step into it with the permission of the principal and a bucket load of protocols that prohibited us just dumping the info in!!)*

Regarding the CLICK funds, James is waiting for the end of the month (as at end of June) to make sure there are no hidden expenses, then he anticipates one final trust meeting to wind up, and lay out terms and conditions of said funds which will be deposited into the SEPAnz account.

Key Competency Pathway documents:

Please continue to access the booklets through Julie King. SEPAnz will advise of any change to this arrangement. Gary Quarless and the KCP Working Group have chosen to continue to re-write aspects of the KCP document. These changes will be reviewed and the whole SEPAnz network will be given an opportunity to read the draft changes and feedback their reflections.

SEPAnz participation in Work Programmes:

I will always inform you of the various working groups that I am involved with in newsletters. Our involvement in the many work programmes is absolutely essential. Our voice should be heard – and indeed we have a great deal to contribute! The fact that we are invited (often personally) to the many MOE programmes is a recognition of our Students and our work!

The following report kindly submitted by Louise Doyle is a process set up in 2015 to feedback to SEPAnz and to ensure that everyone is kept up to date.

Reporting on projects / work.

Background:

Since the Ministry of Education policy ‘Success for All’, MOE are increasingly seeking the perspective and input from special school Principals on work and projects in the area of special education.

Often – but not always the request comes via the President of SEPAnz and work in the past has been completed by the President or other executive members. The number of projects in recent years has increased and therefore projects are being delegated to others within the membership of SEPAnz. In some case Principals are being approached independently to assist with work that requires a perspective from the special schools sector.

Rationale:

- It is of benefit to all that there is a way to share information about work being done.
- It is useful that the SEPAnz executive have an overview of projects / work that members are involved in.

Title of work / project	<u>Education Disability Cross Sector Forum</u>
Name of Principal undertaking work	Louise Doyle
Start date	Idea formulated at IECBP – cross sector advisory meeting in 2014. Several attempts to get together were cancelled
Scope of work Rationale	To work together collaboratively as leaders across the education domain (professional, sector advocacy, and parental advocacy) Develop key principles underpinning this work based on a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities
Work / actions taken so far	Meeting 1. 21 st March 2016 - See attached meeting notes https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wqMEIZaDdxJoOdY1cE1SfxndLq7lbk42H4wC6zwAn5U/edit Meeting 2. 15 June 2016 Discussed a definition of <i>inclusive education</i> .the discussion was very positive and was introduced with the philosophy that inclusive practice was NOT about location of students - ie are they in a special school or not. The group did not want to exclude any schools. All types of schools can be inclusive and also not inclusive.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are attended by representatives from NZPF, IEAG, PPTA, NZEI, IHC, Inclusive NZ, Deaf Action, CCS, SEPAnz, NZAIMS, Te Akatea, NZ Catholic schools, NZ Down Syndrome Ass.(and NZSTA - although they have not attended yet) • Meetings facilitated by Anne Patillo • Meeting June 2016 - The IHC, IEAG and others were noticeably more sympathetic to schools, Principals and Special Schools. It feels they are less ‘anti special schools’ than previously.

Louise is on sabbatical next term and will not be available for the next meeting. I have attended once this year, and Diane and Graeme have kindly volunteered to represent us in the event Louise is unavailable. Have a fabulous sabbatical Lou!!

Funding Review:

There have been three meetings thus far with another four planned during term three. It is a long-term commitment and will span three or more years. It needs to be a long-term strategy as the outcomes are hugely important for Education as a whole. Special Education funding is “ring-fenced”. ORS and other special education funding is “off the agenda”. In many ways until the other aspects are worked through this is a sensible thing. Ultimately though, we all know that special education funding will have to be addressed. Certainly Communities of Learning are high on all Ministry agendas!

At the latest Funding Review meeting, (First of July), Cathy Wylie presented a reflection upon the role and design of Funding Systems.

Understanding Behaviour – Responding Safely working group:

Graeme has been on the Advisory Group and Hamish (from Allenvale) and myself are on the working party. It has been an intensive period. The time-line for such a large piece of work has been tight! Di Thomas has facilitated the whole project and the participants have worked in a focussed manner to produce an excellent resource. It will not meet the hundred and one various scenarios we are faced with, in our schools, on a daily basis! However it does give very sensible advice regarding how to reduce the likelihood of unsafe practice when dealing with behaviours. The whole programme can be introduced to a school staff with support from the MOE Team - being established. Currently the “resource” is in Draft so I am unable to share it with you. However Graeme, Diane and I have been asked to share an introductory presentation with some of you.

Mihi Whakatau – Peter Hughes Sate Services Commission – Secretary:

Graeme and I received invitations to Peter’s farewell. He is held in very high esteem for the changes he wrought within the Ministry of Education – there has been a positive culture change- and we have all benefitted. Katrina Casey is the Acting Secretary for Education until a new person is appointed.

In addition I was invited to the Mihi Whakatau to welcome Peter to his new position as Secretary of the State Sector (he is the Secretary to rule them all now!!). Minister Parata attended and lauded Peter for his work. The fact that we (Special Education representatives) have been included as guests to these occasions is testament to Peter’s collaborative leadership style.

MOOT 2016:

Just a question – do we want to call it a MOOT? Is it the right terminology? Open to your thoughts.

The Executive has been busy planning this event. Diane sent everyone the initial flyer – please diarise NOW! Wellington is a busy place these days, Hotels are in demand so I suggest that you book your accommodation as soon as possible. The Programme will be set for Thursday 24 and Friday 25 NOVEMBER and the venue is James Cook – Grand Chancellor Hotel.

We have thus far invited Minister Parata, Katrina Casey/and/or the new Secretary for Education, David Wales, and Iona Holsead from ERO and Dr Graham Stoop EDUCANZ Chief Executive.

We are considering a “Humorous Convenor” for this event. Should you have any suggestions kindly contact Diane.

Specialist Service Standards Review of the process:

Please note the letter below from Mary and Carolyn:

Kia ora koutou colleagues

We are moving into the first stages of revising the current review methodology in preparation for the third cycle of reviews of the Specialist Service Standards which will start in the second half of 2017. To progress this, a Project Team representative of all Providers has been formed. Mary Smith is facilitating this team along with Glenis Allen and Barry Newcombe.

The tasks of the Project Team include:

- looking at the current tools and methodology used to review the specialist services
- looking at the effectiveness of the current specialist services providers’ internal review requirements as applied to their specialist services
- developing a new process for the third cycle of reviews. This will be based on:
 - the review of the current process
 - a review of ERO’s development from 1989 – 2016, moving from evaluation for accountability/compliance to evaluation for outcomes
 - consideration of moving from a focus on the specialist practices to looking at the impact of those practices
 - exploring ways to focus both internal and external reviews of specialist services on outcomes for children and young people.

We have held our first Project Team meeting and have started to explore the ways forward to achieve our tasks. Ro Parsons from ERO spent the morning with the team telling the ERO story and taking us through the key developments in ERO’s evaluation approach.

Having a Project Team representing all providers reinforces for us the importance of retaining review teams with reviewers who represent the providers. This will help to ensure consistency of review methodology when reviewing providers.

We will keep you informed of our progress along the way and please don’t hesitate to get back to us with any comments or questions.

Noho ora mai

Signed:

Mary Smith & Carolyn Grace.

I am a member of this Review process and I have expressed (in robust manner) the feedback received from SEPAnz members. Mary and Carolyn and the Team are carefully considering all recommendations.

Hauhora:

As another busy term draws to a close/crashes headlong into a wall – I have to remind you of the obvious (yet we don’t always take our own advice) take time out for yourself please! We have a superb network of colleagues and everyone is only an email/phone call away! Please don’t hesitate to share the load.

Have a well-deserved non-contact break.

Very best regards to all.

Judith