



Greater Christchurch Education Renewal May 2013

– Interim decision for
Aranui cluster schools

*Information for families
of Aranui Schools*



The education sector, like everything else in greater Christchurch, has experienced huge disruption as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes. The face and makeup of Christchurch has changed and the education sector needs to respond to those changes.

The Government is committed to rebuilding education in greater Christchurch to create one of the best schooling networks in the country. It is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to ensure children have access to innovative, modern schools. This means new facilities, with the latest information technology including access to ultra-fast broadband, flexible spaces and energy-efficient buildings that better reflect the different learning needs of students today.

In September 2012, as part of the greater Christchurch education renewal plan, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced proposals affecting 38 of the 215 schools in greater Christchurch.

Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) requested voluntary closure and closed on 27 January 2013.

On Monday 18 February 2013, the Education Minister announced interim decisions for 31 schools. Twelve of these schools have since accepted those interim decisions, so those decisions are now final.

In Aranui it was proposed that five schools – Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School, Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Wainoni School – close and a new year 1–13 Aranui Community Campus be established.

The Aranui schools were given additional time to provide feedback because of the complexity of their proposal. The Boards of these schools submitted their feedback on the proposals by March 2013.

A number of factors have been looked at when making interim decision about schools in Aranui including



earthquake damage, roll size, population movement and future growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities there are to create modern schools. The decision also takes into account how each school fits into the education network in Aranui and across greater Christchurch and within the context of broader decisions being made about the overall future of Christchurch.

The Aranui Community Campus was proposed to strengthen the opportunities available to children in the Aranui area, to ensure they have access to the best infrastructure to support their learning and are provided with a wider choice of subjects and activities.

The proposed campus would share specialist resources, funding and staffing. In addition, it would support students as they move through various levels of schooling and ensure good connections with tertiary, other training organisations and employers to assist senior students on their journey after they leave the campus.

A vital part of the proposed community campus is the co-location of other services within the campus that families and the wider community could access. A range of community services and facilities such as health, recreation and social services could operate from the campus.

It is expected that this proposal would fundamentally change how education is delivered in the Aranui community.

What the interim decision for the Aranui cluster means for you

On Wednesday 22 May 2013, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced her interim decision for schools in the Aranui cluster – Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School, Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Wainoni School. The interim decision for this cluster is that:

- » Year 1-13 schooling in a community campus should be established on the Aranui High School site, replacing some of the existing Aranui schools. This would mean that Aranui School, Aranui High School, Avondale School and Wainoni School should close on 27 January 2017, with the new campus open from term one, 2017.
- » Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site, and that this should be reviewed again in 2020.

Your school's Board of Trustees and/or Principal has been provided with information to give the school community about these interim decisions and what it means for your school. The information below will help you understand what the interim decision means, what will happen next and where you can get further information and support.

The Ministry of Education will work with the Boards and staff of each of the affected schools to ensure access to quality education for children is not compromised throughout the process, and that staff and families are well informed each step of the way.

1 – Proposal to close schools should proceed and new Year 1–13 schooling provision established

Schools have until 3 July 2013 to provide feedback on the interim decision before a final decision is made. This feedback will be considered along with the initial submission and the Education Minister will make a final decision in

September 2013. Your Board may choose to consult with the school community during this consultation period.

If the Minister's final decision remains the same as her interim decision, there will be consultation with the Aranui schools and the wider community on the shape and services provided within the campus.

This will include:

- » options for the way the campus is organised, for example there could be a Year 1-13 school which could be designed to have separate parts for different age groups with some parts of the campus that are shared; or there could be a Year 1-6 and a Year 7-13 School, with shared common facilities. There may be other ideas that the schools or the community wants the Ministry to consider
- » ideas about the types of education on site, for example early childhood learning, Māori medium, Pasifika, special education and so on
- » what other services and facilities the community would like on the campus, for example, health, welfare, sports, cultural.

This is a unique opportunity for the schools and wider community to work with the Ministry to ensure the campus reflects their aspirations for their children's education.

2 – Proposal to close should not proceed

The Board of Chisnallwood Intermediate has until 3 July 2013 to provide feedback on the interim decision. This feedback will be considered and the Education Minister will make a final decision in September 2013.

If my school does close, when will it happen?

The Education Minister's announcement is an interim decision. The final decision on the future of schooling in Aranui is expected in September 2013. The proposed closure dates for the Aranui schools and establishment of the new campus is January 2017. If the final decision is made to close Aranui schools and establish a new campus, we will work with you to help identify the best option for your children and help you work through any issues.

Early childhood education

Two Aranui based early childhood services (E Tipu E Rea and Kidsfirst Kindergartens Ngaire Larcombe) will be affected if the interim decision is confirmed as the final decision in September. Once there is a final decision, the Ministry will work with each of the affected services to ensure quality early childhood education provision is available for Aranui children and any transitions are minimised and well managed.





How can I support my children through this change?

Whatever the proposed change is for your school, the experience is likely to be different for every person. While one child may be excited and looking forward to what a new situation might bring, another may be apprehensive and anxious. We completely understand that. For more information go to www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz or call 0800 746 338.

You can find more information at
www.shapededucation.govt.nz



Where can I go for more information?

Further information for parents and caregivers about supporting children is available through your school or from *www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz*

You can find more information on the Shaping Education website: *www.shapingeducation.govt.nz*

Alternatively, you can contact the Ministry of Education on *0800 746 338* or email *shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz*

