



Greater Christchurch Education Renewal May 2013

– Interim decision for
Aranui cluster schools

*Information for school staff
in Aranui cluster schools*



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

An opportunity for a brighter future for 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 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.

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

The proposal for five schools in the Aranui area, Aranui High School, Aranui School, Avondale School, Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Wainoni School, was that all five schools would close and a new year 1–13 campus be established. The Aranui cluster schools were given additional time to provide feedback because of the complexity of their proposals. The Boards of these schools submitted their feedback by 7 March 2013.

On Wednesday 22 May 2013 the interim decision for the Aranui cluster was announced.

The interim decision for the Aranui 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.

A number of factors have been looked at when making decisions about schools including earthquake damage, declining rolls, population movement and future growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities there are to create modern schools, and how each school fits into the whole education network across greater Christchurch.

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.



What the interim decision means for you

Your school's Board of Trustees and/or Principal has been provided with information about the interim decision 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.

1 – Proposal to close a school and establish new Year 1–13 schooling provision should proceed.

Schools have until 3 July 2013 to provide any feedback on their 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 about your school in September 2013.

Your school Board may choose to consult with the school community. If the Minister's final decision is the same as her interim decision, there will be consultation with the Aranui schools and the community on the shape of education and services within the campus. This will include:

- » options for the way the campus is organised
- » ideas about the types of education on site
- » what other services and facilities the community would like to be able to use on the campus.

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 a school should not proceed.

The Board of Chisnallwood Intermediate School have 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 final decision about the future of schooling in the Aranui cluster is expected to be announced in September 2013.

The date for the closure of schools and establishment of the new school/s will be announced as part of this final decision.

The proposed date for closure of the schools and opening of a new campus is 27 January 2017.

If my school does close what will this mean for school staff?

There are processes in place for school closures and school staff have clear rights and obligations.

Teaching staff

- » There is a formal and clearly defined process for any school closures and all teaching staff, including the Principal, are covered by the provisions outlined in their relevant employment agreement.
- » Teaching staff from any schools that close are able to apply for roles in other schools but will not have preferred status for any positions.

Support staff (including caretakers, cleaners, and ground staff)

- » Support staff at any schools that close would also be affected and the provisions of the relevant employment agreement would apply.
- » The employer costs of any redundancy entitlements would be met from Board funds.

Further information about your rights and obligations are detailed in your employment agreement.

Where can I go for support and advice?

You can get more information about the process your school will go through from your school Board (as your employer), or your Principal. If you are a member of any of the following unions you can also get information and support from them – New Zealand Educational Institute, Post Primary Teachers Association, Public Service Association, Amalgamated Workers Unions, or Service and Food Workers Union.

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*

All school staff can access free support from EAP Services Limited. Phone *0800 327 669* to find out more about their services.

