

Education renewal in greater Christchurch

Interim Decision Summary Document - for schools in the Aranui area

The Canterbury earthquakes have dramatically changed Christchurch and the surrounding region. School communities are among those that have experienced disruption on a scale never seen before. The toll on students, parents and wider school communities has been significant.

The role schools have played in their communities throughout the earthquakes is acknowledged, but decisions are now needed to focus on the future provision of education for the children in greater Christchurch. The aim is to ensure each and every child can get access to good quality education close to where they live.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools in greater Christchurch before the earthquakes, and a further 4,300 students have not re-enrolled meaning there are now 9,300 places available – that's roughly equivalent to the entire student population of Gisborne.

The aftermath of the earthquake has given us a chance to have a look at all the schools across greater Christchurch and see what could be done better.

A number of factors were looked at when making decisions about schools, including earthquake damage, roll size, population movement and projected growth, building issues, and the opportunities to create better and more modern schools. How each school fits into the education network across Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri was also a factor.

It is acknowledged some of the decisions are difficult for schools and their communities and that is well understood.

The Education Minister and Ministry of Education are committed to continuing

to provide support for teachers, parents and children as the greater Christchurch education renewal programme continues.

The face and make-up of greater Christchurch has, and will continue to change dramatically due to the earthquakes, and schools must change too. The extent of damage to school buildings and land, and changes to where people live, means the school network cannot be put back as it was.

The Government is committed to rebuilding Christchurch and its education network. It is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years into restoring and renewing schools in greater Christchurch to create more modern schools, with great new facilities.

Modern schools are designed to reflect the advice of education experts and to ensure children can be taught using the latest techniques and technology. This includes flexible teaching spaces that can be expanded, or reduced depending on what is required, in energy-efficient buildings, with the latest technology, including access to ultra-fast broadband.

In line with this vision, in September 2012, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced plans to consult on proposals to close or merge 38 schools in greater Christchurch. Two of those schools have since closed voluntarily at their request.

The Minister announced interim decisions for 31 schools on 18 February 2013. Twelve schools have since received final decisions after advising the Minister they agreed with/accepted the interim decision. It is expected that the final decisions for the remaining schools will be announced in late May 2013.



The proposal for the five schools (Aranui High School, Chisnallwood Intermediate School, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School) in the Aranui area was for the five schools to close and a new year 1–13 campus be established.

The five schools within the Aranui area were given more time to consult on the proposal because of its complexity. Submissions from these Boards were received on 7 March 2013.

These submissions have been carefully analysed, along with any alternative suggestions that were made. The Education Minister has taken all this information into account when making an interim decision about these schools.

The decision announced on 22 May 2013 relating to the Aranui cluster is an interim decision. All five schools will have until 3 July 2013 in which to provide any further information, comment, or additions to previous submissions before a final decision is made.

To assist this process all the reports and information the Education Minister had available to her and which informed her decision for the Aranui cluster, are accessible on the Ministry of Education website www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

The final decision for the Aranui cluster is expected in September.

Aranui cluster interim decision

- » Year 1-13 schooling in a community campus should be established on the Aranui High School site, open from term one 2017.
- » This would mean that four schools, Aranui School, Aranui High School, Avondale School and Wainoni School should close on 27 January 2017.
- » Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site. Its future should be reviewed in 2020 after the community campus has been operational for a couple of years and other changes to the schooling network have been made and settled in.

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.



Next Steps

All five schools have the opportunity to provide further comment, information and/or submissions on the interim decisions by 3 July 2013.

The Ministry of Education will pay up to \$2,500 to fund a facilitator to support each of the Boards during this period (up to 20 hours at \$100 per hour plus \$500 for other costs). The Board may use the same facilitator that it used for the initial consultation period or it may contract someone else. The Ministry of Education has a list of suitably experienced people.

Following analysis and consideration of any further submissions, information or feedback, the Minister will announce her final decision for the Aranui cluster in September.

If the Minister's final decision remains the same as her interim decision, consultation will then occur with the Aranui schools and wider community on the 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.

Aranui schools and the wider community will also be asked to consider the make-up and location of other possible facilities on the campus.

The feedback should be addressed to:

Kathryn Palmer
Acting Regional Manager,
Ministry of Education,
PO Box 2522
Christchurch 8140

More information

Visit: www.shapingeducation.govt.nz Call: 0800 746 338

Email: www.shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz

