

# What can I tell our students, staff and community

## – suggested wording Aranui schools

### Proposals for consultation

- » In September 2012, the Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata initiated consultation on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as part of the Government's education renewal plans for Christchurch.
- » This included a proposal to establish a new Aranui community campus with year 1-13 schooling and to close five schools in Aranui.
- » Aranui schools were given additional time to provide feedback because of the complexity of this proposal.
- » The final decisions announced for Aranui and New Brighton schools on 11 September 2013 represent a significant milestone as this means, after extensive consultation, all 38 schools have now received final decisions, including two that opted to close voluntarily.

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### Interim decisions

- » After carefully considering submissions received, in May 2013 the Minister announced the interim decision for the Aranui cluster was that:
  - a new community campus should be established on the Aranui High School site, ready to open from term one 2017, and Aranui High, Aranui 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 operating for three years, and other changes to the schooling network have been made and settled in.

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### Final decision

- » As per the interim decision, the Minister has announced the final decision is that a new community campus will be established on the current Aranui High School site with year 1-13 schooling, and will open at the start of term one 2017.
- » This means Aranui High, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School will close on 27 January 2017.
- » Chisnallwood Intermediate will remain open on its current site, subject to a review in 2020.
- » The Minister considered feedback received and a number of factors including earthquake damage, roll size, building issues, future population growth projections and school locations.



### What happens next?

- » The four schools will continue to operate as normal until they close at the beginning of 2017. The Ministry will work with the Board and principal from each of these schools to ensure that there is a focus on the ongoing provision of quality teaching and learning programmes, and the schools, students, parents and communities are given the support they need to thrive.
- » The Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG), made up of members of the local community, will be set up following the announcement to lead further community consultation on the campus.
- » With the support of the Ministry and existing boards, the ACLG will work with the wider Aranui community to develop an exciting vision for the organisation of the campus, the facilities and services it will provide, and make sure the community continues to stay involved every step of the way.

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### Aranui community campus consultation

- » This campus has the prospect of raising student achievement in Aranui, allowing different ways of learning, not just for students, but for the learning and wellbeing of the entire community. While this is the first campus of its kind in greater Christchurch, there are successful examples in other parts of New Zealand.
- » The Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG) will work with the wider Aranui community to develop an exciting vision for the organisation of the campus, the facilities and services it will provide, and make sure the community continues to stay involved every step of the way.
- » The consultation is likely to be carried out through workshops, focus groups, and public meetings.
- » This will include looking at the types of schooling that would best suit the community – e.g. a Year 1-13 school, a primary and secondary school or a junior/middle/senior model, and inclusion of Māori medium education.
- » The Christchurch City Council, appropriate Government agencies, community groups and key stakeholders will also be consulted on how to maximise opportunities for the community.
- » The ACLG will guide the consultation and communication with the community until the Establishment Board of Trustees (EBoT) of the community campus is established in June 2014. It is likely that the group will continue to provide support and advice as the EBoT works to establish how the community's vision can be realised.



### Support available

- » The four affected schools in Aranui have been given information that they can share with staff, parents and communities.

#### *For school staff when the schools close in 2017*

- » 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. Each closing school will have a change manager who will be able to provide further information on proposed timelines and processes.
- » Staff are encouraged to discuss their situation with their employer and seek advice from their union, or if not a union member, with an appropriate advisor.
- » A package of wellbeing support is available to schools and staff.
- » The Ministry's Education Wellbeing Response (EWR) team will work with schools to tailor individual school wellbeing plans.

#### *For students, parents and the school community*

- » A letter and a brochure about the final decision is available for parents.
- » Each closing school will have a change manager who, along with the school Board and principal, will be meeting with and providing information to families. Families will be kept informed as plans are developed so that they know what they need to do and when they need to do it.
- » Plans will be put in place to ensure transitions are well managed for students and that they continue to have access to specialist programmes such as technology education and special education programmes.
- » Further information for parents and caregivers about supporting children is available from the school or from [www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz](http://www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz)
- » Further information is available at [www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz) or phone **0800 746 338**.

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### Wording that can be used and adapted for newsletters, emails, websites etc

In September 2012, the Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata initiated consultation on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as part of the Government's education renewal plans for Christchurch. Our school was affected by this proposal.

You may be aware that we put together a submission to the Minister in March 2013 in response to the proposal relating to our school. After considering submissions, the Minister announced an interim decision in May 2013.

The Minister has now announced a final decision. As per the interim decision, the final decision is that a new community campus will be established on the current Aranui High School site with year 1-13 schooling, and will open at the start of term one 2017.



This means Aranui High, Aranui School, Avondale School and Wainoni School will close on 27 January 2017. Chisnallwood Intermediate will remain open on its current site, subject to a review in 2020.

The Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG), made up of members of the local community, will be set up following the announcement to lead further community consultation on the campus.

With the support of the Ministry and education community, the ACLG will work with the wider Aranui community to develop an exciting vision for the organisation of the campus, and the facilities and services it will provide. This will include looking at the types of schooling that would best suit the community – e.g. a Year 1-13 school or a junior/middle/senior model, and inclusion of a bilingual unit or Kura. The ACLG will make sure the community continues to stay involved every step of the way.

***For Aranui schools closing in 2017***

Our school will continue to operate as normal until it closes at the beginning of 2017. We will work with the Ministry to ensure there is a focus on the ongoing provision of quality teaching and learning programmes, and that our students, their parents and wider community receive appropriate support.

Families are encouraged to continue enrolling students at these schools until the end of 2016 when the students will be able to transition to the school/s on the new Aranui campus.

Further information is available  
on the *Shaping Education* website  
[www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz)

