



# Greater Christchurch Education Renewal September 2013

– Final decisions for Aranui  
and New Brighton schools

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*Information for school staff*



*The education sector in greater Christchurch has experienced huge disruption due to the Canterbury earthquakes.*

Responding positively to the earthquakes means not only addressing the changed environment and its effect on schools across greater Christchurch, but also taking the opportunity to look at what we can do better to make sure every child has access to a great education for years to come.

The Ministry has looked at earthquake damage, roll numbers, weather tightness, the age and wear and tear of buildings, population movement and future population growth, school locations and how we can create more modern schools with great new facilities.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools across greater Christchurch before the earthquakes. As of July 2012, a further 4,300 children had not re-enrolled, meaning there were 9,300 places available and many schools with significantly underutilised resources.

We have a chance to build brighter, more modern schools in better locations, with state of the art facilities, and to ensure all children have access to quality education close to where they live.

In September 2012, Minister of Education Hekia Parata announced that the Government is investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years to restore and renew the education sector in greater Christchurch, including building or rebuilding 15 new schools. The Education Minister also announced proposals to close or merge 38 schools of the 215 in greater Christchurch.

Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) closed voluntarily on 27 January 2013. At the end of March 2013, 12 of the 38 schools received final decisions following consultation, and in May 2013 another 16 schools received final decisions. Five schools in Aranui and three schools in New Brighton are the last of the 38 schools to receive final decisions.



In May 2013 the five schools in Aranui received an interim decision, following an extended consultation period due to the complexity of their proposals. In the same month, the Minister also announced three schools in New Brighton (Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton) were subject to two new proposals, which would be consulted on together.

## What are the final decisions for the Aranui and New Brighton schools?

On 11 September 2013, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced final decisions for five schools in Aranui and three schools in New Brighton as part of the Government's education renewal plans for greater Christchurch.

The final decisions are:

- » A new community campus will be established on the current Aranui High School site with year 1-13 schooling and will open from term one 2017
- » Aranui High School, 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

- » Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton schools will merge at the start of term one 2015, initially on the Freeville and North New Brighton sites, and from 2016 on the North New Brighton site.

Further consultation on the community campus will begin after the announcement. The Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG) will be established to lead the consultation, with the support of the Ministry of Education and the education community.

This group will work with the wider Aranui community to develop an exciting vision for the organisation of the campus, and the facilities and services the campus will provide. The ACLG will make sure the community continues to stay involved every step of the way.

The current North New Brighton site will also be significantly redeveloped to provide a modern learning environment, including new teaching spaces that reflect the latest thinking in school design.

## What do the decisions mean for you?

Your school's Board of Trustees and/or principal has been provided with information about the decision and what it means for your school.

The Ministry of Education will provide extensive support to Aranui schools that will close in 2017 and New Brighton schools that will merge in 2015 to ensure staff are well supported, and there is a smooth transition to new or merged schools for students and their families.

The Ministry will work with every school to ensure access to quality education for students is not compromised throughout the process and that staff and families are well informed each step of the way.

School employees affected by a decision to merge or close, have clear rights and obligations.

## School mergers

### *(Information for staff at New Brighton schools)*

#### **Teaching staff**

- » Teaching staff from any schools that merge have the right to register their interest for positions in the newly merged school once the final staffing structure is announced. Recruitment for teachers at merged schools would first be opened to existing permanent teachers at the affected schools. Unfilled positions will then be advertised. If any teaching staff are unsuccessful in gaining a position, provisions in relevant employment agreements apply.
- » The principal's position at any merged school must be advertised externally.

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

- » Support staff at a merging school have the right to register their interest for positions at the newly merged school once the final staffing structure is announced. If unsuccessful in applying for a position, provisions in the relevant employment agreements apply.



## School closures

### *(Information for staff at Aranui schools)*

#### **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 in relevant employment agreements would apply.

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

## What happens next?

### **Aranui**

The Ministry will work closely with each of the four Aranui schools until they close in 2017 to ensure they have the support they need to continue to offer quality teaching and learning programmes. This support might include professional development for staff, sports and cultural activities with the community, additional support for students with behavioural issues or identified learning needs, and additional resourcing.

The community campus consultation, led by the newly established Aranui Community Leadership Group (ACLG), will give the whole community the chance to come up with innovative ideas for enhancing education and lifting student achievement in new and exciting ways.



The consultation is likely to be carried out via workshops, focus groups and public meetings, and cover the organisation of the campus and the services and facilities it will provide. This will include looking at the types of schooling that would best suit the community – for example a year 1-13 school or a junior/middle/senior model, special education and inclusion of a bilingual unit or Kura.

The Christchurch City Council, appropriate Government agencies, community groups and key stakeholders will also be consulted on how to maximise opportunities and shared facilities for the community.

### **New Brighton**

The Ministry will be seeking expressions of interest for an appointed Board of Trustees for the continuing school, to be established by November 2013.

In addition, the community may choose to also establish a Community Group to help maintain interest and momentum in the merged school, both through the merging process and after the school is established.

An appropriate package will be put in place to support the schools through to their transition to the merged school in 2015.

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## *Support and wellbeing*

There is a range of support available to school staff affected by a final decision to merge or close.

You can get support from your Board of Trustees and, if you are a member of one, from your union (NZEI, PPTA, SFWU, AWU, PSA, SPANZ).

Additionally, wellbeing support and employee assistance programmes (EAP) are available to schools and staff in all state and state integrated schools in greater Christchurch. This support includes a range of workshops, services, professional development, coaching and funding options.

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More information about the wellbeing support available, and how to access this support, is outlined in the *Wellbeing and workforce support package* fact sheet, which you can view on the Shaping Education website at [www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz).

Hard copies have also been provided to your school.

Further information about EAP services is available at [www.eapservices.co.nz](http://www.eapservices.co.nz), or by phoning 0800 327 669.

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The Ministry of Education can provide information about further support that may be available, and can also work with schools to identify and provide support for the wellbeing of staff and students. Call 0800 746 338 or email [shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz). Details of the decisions for individual schools can also be found at [www.shapingeducation.govt.nz](http://www.shapingeducation.govt.nz).

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