

Provision of Year 7 and 8 Technology Greater Christchurch

Report to the Sector

October 2014

This report summarises the engagement between the Ministry of Education and the sector and contains the outcomes from the workshops held in August and September 2014



Report to sector

Provision of year 7 & 8 technology in greater Christchurch

As part of the decisions made by the Minister of Education about the closure and merger of schools in Christchurch, short term arrangements for the provision of technology for year 7 and 8 students at affected schools were put in place while the sector considered technology provision in greater Christchurch in the long term.

In order to do this, the Ministry of Education worked with the Canterbury Primary Principals' Association, the Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools, the full primary school group and the Canterbury West Coast Secondary Principals' Association (the 'Principals' Associations') to develop a process to gather the sector's views. This process, developed to provide a number of different opportunities for interested parties to put forward their views and ideas is described below:

- a workshop for principals and technology leaders held on Tuesday 24th September 2013 where approximately 70 board members, principals and technology teachers attended.
- an exercise to gain input from students on their thoughts and ideas about technology provision developed in collaboration with the Principals' Associations and the NZ Post Primary Teachers Association (NZPPTA). The exercise ran from 9th October to 1st November 2013 and over 2,600 responses were received.
- Meetings with interested learning community clusters in term 4, 2013 to discuss technology in a cluster context. The aim of these meetings was twofold – to inform clusters of the work and to seek their views on technology provision for year 7 and 8 students.
- In term 4, 2013 an online stakeholder survey to gain the views of the sector and wider community. The questions for this survey were developed with input from the Principal associations and the NZPPTA and ran from 12th November to 29th November - 122 responses were received.

As a result, the following vision for technology provision for year 7 and 8 students in greater Christchurch was developed:

Students will be critical thinkers able to solve problems with creative and innovative solutions using a range of technologies. To do this technology provision in greater Christchurch will be student centred, integrated across the curriculum, flexible, effectively delivered and appropriately resourced

What became clear during this work, is that it is difficult to discuss 'provision' – i.e. where this will be provided, without discussing 'delivery' – what, how and when the technology curriculum is taught and by whom. The Ministry of Education acknowledges that there have been some concerns about the delivery, communication and collaboration, professional learning and development and transportation and timetabling that have been identified as part of this work. The Ministry will continue to work with the Technology Learning Community Cluster to address some of these issues. Additionally, the plan which has gone out to the sector for comment, if agreed for implementation, could address some of the sector's issues regarding choice and competition.

Based on feedback from this work, in February 2014 a proposal for provision which included the retention of all exiting providers in Christchurch City, Selwyn District and the

providers was circulated in confidence to the Principals' Associations, the NZPPTA and the Education Advisory Board for comment. Both the Principals' Associations and the Education Advisory Board responded that the proposal was 'bland' and that it did not make the most of the opportunities provided by the Canterbury earthquakes to improve technology provision for the students of greater Christchurch. The NZPPTA also expressed concerns that giving more flexibility to change providers can have serious implications for the ongoing provision of year 7 and 8 technology at specialist facilities for other schools – that is, if a school was to leave a provider, there are staffing and resourcing implications that can impact on the centre's ability to remain financially viable, or to continue to deliver all current programmes.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Education continued to engage with the sector and stakeholders at four workshops held in Christchurch during August and September 2014. These were advertised to the sector and key stakeholders by:

- email to all school Principals and Board Chairs and key stakeholders on 28 or 29 July 2014 informing them of the date of the workshops and that further information would be in the August Shaping Education newsletter. The email to stakeholders also invited them to attend the specific stakeholder workshop, a briefing meeting to be held prior to the commencement of the workshops and a request to encourage attendance at the workshops through their networks;
- 4 August – advertisement in Shaping Education newsletter sent to all school Principals and Board Chairs inviting enrolments;
- An email containing a discussion document (Appendix 1) for the workshops was sent to every person who enrolled. The email also asked the enrollee to encourage further enrolments amongst their colleagues;
- An agreement from NZPPTA and NZEI to circulate the advertisement to their networks. The text of the invitation was sent by email to NZPPTA and NZEI on 6 August, 2014.

In the workshops, four scenarios for provision were considered by participants and their responses to the following questions were recorded:

- What do schools get from this scenario – why are these things important?
- How does this scenario support the vision – why is this important?
- What needs to happen to bring this scenario to reality?

The purpose of the scenario planning was not to decide which of the scenarios participants at the workshops preferred, rather they were intended as a 'starter' for conversations about what is important in the provision of year 7 and 8 technology.

What often happens during scenario planning is that all starting scenarios are eventually rejected and a new scenario that incorporates the acceptable parts of each starting scenario is developed and agreed.

This is referred to as an “and” “and” approach.

The four scenarios were:

- 1) Home school provision, where technology is provided to year 7 & 8 students in their home school;
- 2) Modified centralised specialist provision, with a small number of centralised providers and year 7 and 8 students attend the closest to their home school. These facilities would have outreach and mobile delivery capability for 'user' schools;
- 3) Modified status quo, where all existing technology providers are retained with the client schools having more opportunity to change provider;

- 4) Learning community cluster provision, where learning community clusters determine technology provision for all year 7 and 8 students within their cluster.

Participants were also given the opportunity to draft a fifth scenario and provide comments (a copy of the comments related to the 5th scenario is attached as Appendix 2).

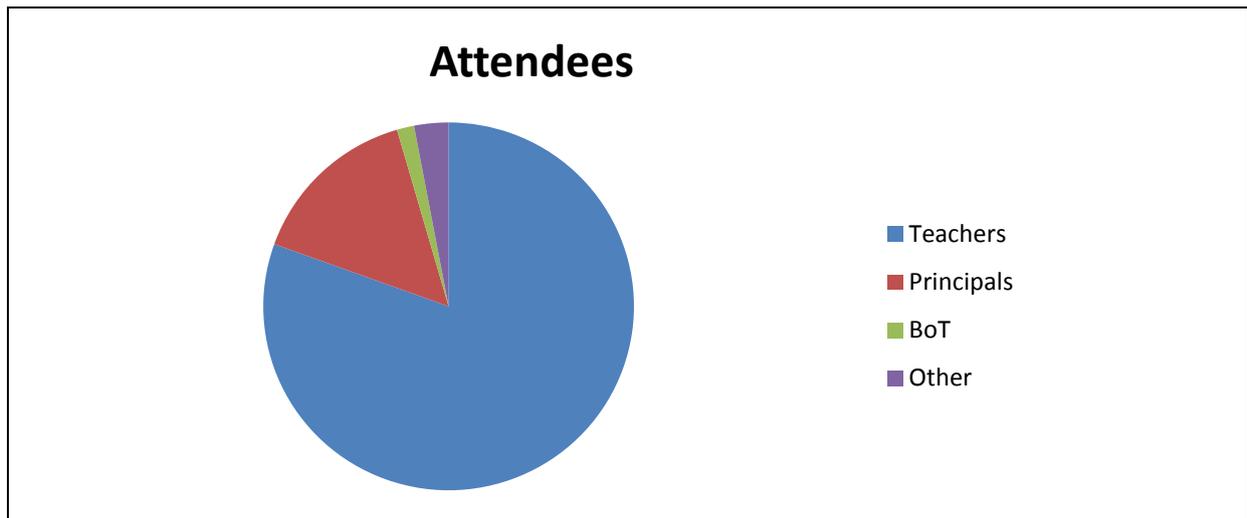
Overall, around 70 people from a range of schools (full primaries (including technology centres), intermediates and secondary) and stakeholder groups attended the first three workshops, and 22 attended the workshop for stakeholders.

The table below sets out the attendance at each workshop:

Workshop date	No. Attended by type
18 Aug 2014	12 x Intermediate school 19 x Primary schools 7 x Secondary schools 1 x NZPPTA
20 Aug	3 x Intermediate school 4 x Primary school 1 x Secondary 1 x NZPPTA Canterbury Executive 1 x Te Kura
27 Aug	3 x Intermediate 14 x Primary 4 x Secondary 1 x unknown
2 Sept (Stakeholder)	22 attended representing: Home Economics and Technology Teachers' Association; Technology Education NZ; CPIT; Canterbury Primary Principals' Association (including full primary school representatives); Education Advisory Board; NZPPTA; Canterbury Secondary Principals' Association; PPTA - Manual Teachers' Network; Canterbury Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools; Technology Learning Community Cluster Leaders; Christian Schools' Network

NOTE: The total number of people who attended is not equal to the number who attended by workshop. This is because a small number of people attended more than one workshop.

The chart below shows the designation of the attendees at the first three workshops by position at schools.

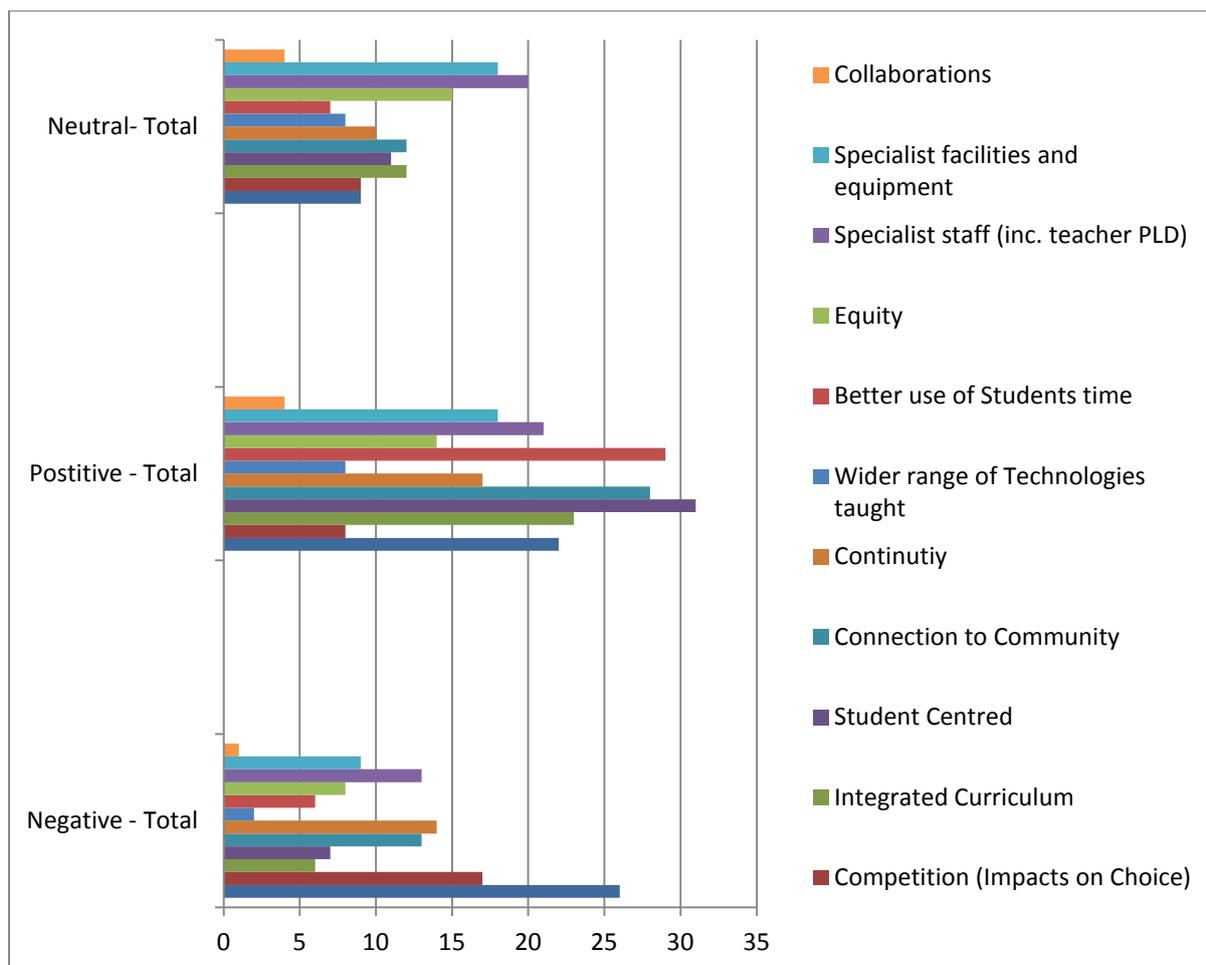


Participants at the workshops worked in groups during this discussion and recorded their thinking on A3 sheets for analysis– in total there were responses from 21 groups. The Ministry also received a written response from NZPPTA and two emails from teachers who were unable to attend the workshops. The comments in these were added to that received from the workshops.

The Ministry organised the feedback into the following themes that represented what is important to participants in the provision of year 7 and 8 technology:

- Specialist staff;
- Choice/completion;
- Integrated curriculum;
- Better use of student time;
- Equity – resourcing, teaching, facilities;
- Student centred;
- Specialist facilities / equipment;
- Professional learning and development;
- Collaborations – between schools, within clusters;
- Connection to community;
- Wider range of technologies.

The table below show the number of times these themes were mentioned by a group, and whether this was mentioned as a positive, a negative or neutral.



This analysis showed that the importance of specialist staff was the unifying factor identified by every group across the four workshops. The 'specialist staff' theme is inclusive of comments related to a need for ongoing professional development and pre-service teacher education for teachers of technology. The themes of specialist facilities and equipment is closely linked to the theme of specialist staff.

'All students have access to specialist teachers in well equipped spaces'
(Group 'F', 18 August workshop)

In all other 'themes' there was a mix stating these as 'positive' importance, and 'negative' importance. When commenting on 'choice' the following two comments were received:

'Client directed outcomes – they can choose where they are going and what is delivered e.g. Breens offer Art Tech'
(Group 'B', 2 September workshop)

'States competition between centres – not good for students' outcomes'
(Group 'D', 27 August workshop)

Many of the themes are a reflection of those emerging from the workshops and surveys held in 2013. For example, students completing the survey identified a desire for a wider range of technology and curriculum areas and this came through as important in the feedback from

the workshops.

'Integrated curriculum – opportunities to grow this further e.g. science, social studies'
(Group 'E', 27 August workshop)

*'Ability to cover curriculum areas difficult to staff – e.g. the mobile unit
Could teach robotics, Electronic programmes'*
(Group 'A', 2 September workshop)

There were some groups who commented that the provision of year 7 and 8 technology should be left as it is, as the current system is working. However, the significant numbers of comments that related to how the provision and the delivery could be enhanced indicates a desire for change.

Implementation of the plan would enhance technology teaching and learning for year 7 and 8 students in greater Christchurch. It also addresses the key themes and areas for improvement identified by the sector during 2013 and 2014 and provides opportunities for collaboration, communication, mentoring, sharing of facilities and resources, bulk buying of equipment and materials and joint problem solving.

Next steps

The Ministry of Education is currently seeking comment from the sector on the draft plan for the provision of year 7 and 8 technology in greater Christchurch. Comments are due to the Ministry by Friday 7 November, 2014.

These comments will be considered and a recommendation(s) will be sent to the Minister of Education by the end of November 2014. The Ministry will inform the sector accordingly.