

Canterbury Regional News

21 March 2016

Kia ora,

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of media attention for us. There has been a lot of coverage regarding Robert Selwyn Burrett who has pleaded guilty recently to charges of sexual offences against children. This has been a harrowing time for all those affected. Our Traumatic Incident teams have had specialist staff providing support to many and our thoughts are with the children, their families and school staff at this time. I encourage you to speak to us should this raise issues for you so we can provide help and support.

There has also been reporting about the financial shape of our schools. In general, schools in Canterbury are financially sound. The deficit figures mentioned in the media are one indicator or measure of the all round financial position of our schools.

We all know that much has been asked of our school communities since the earthquakes, therefore support including funding is available for schools that need it. If you do have persistent difficulties in this area, we offer Boards of Trustees additional support and advice, so please do not hesitate to contact our Education Managers or Senior Advisors.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and dedication to RockON. The compassionate and professional way you work to reduce truancy and youth offending and increase engagement in education is providing great outcomes for the young people who need it.

We recently held Health and Safety sessions and I would like to thank those from the sector who attended these. I would also like to thank those of you who attended the "How to recognise and deal with children and young persons' exposed to or at risk of abuse' workshop. This workshop was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Child, Youth and Family (CYF) and the Police.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



Creating an education network that inspires children to reach their full potential

RockON - Reduce Our Community Kids Offending Now

RockON is a high quality, integrated service aimed at reducing truancy and youth offending and increasing engagement in education. An improvement in school attendance is made through either full engagement in school, movement to an alternative education pathway or referral to appropriate community agencies.

The programme takes an inter-agency approach involving School Attendance Services, NZ Police, Child, Youth and Family (CYF), Mental Health Services and the Ministry of Education. The agencies work alongside parents to get the right solution for their child.

A wonderful story of how RockON is making a difference was shared with us recently. RockON supported a young man who for a number of reasons had poor attendance from the start of Year 9 and his engagement at school was limited. This young man has gone from strength to strength since he was referred to RockON. Some of his achievements include:

- NCEA Level 1
- Selection in a regional sports team
- Volunteering to work with younger students
- Presentation to 150 staff about culturally responsive practice for Māori students in the classroom
- Attendance is now above 90%
- Awarded a Blue Light Scholarship to attend an Outward Bound course

Cyber Security

It is a legal requirement for schools to provide a physical and emotionally safe environment for its students, and all schools are required to put in place their own Internet Safety policy. Although schools are not required to report online breaches to us, we know cyber-safety is treated seriously by schools as we work with you to keep kids safe online.

You can receive funded content filtering and firewall services as part of a core N4L Managed Network package to help create a safe online environment. These filtering solutions are effective but cannot guarantee 100 per cent protection, particularly against someone who is determined to gain access to an email system. We encourage you to consider additional measures such as digital citizenship and cyber-safety programmes.

Information around digital citizenship and cyber-safety can be found through the [Enabling e-Learning website](#) and [NetSafe](#) supports schools with online safety and security.

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Ministry of Education



Putting children at the centre of their learning

Mandatory reporting

Under the Education Act, employers must make a mandatory report to the Education Council in certain circumstances. Failing to make a report is an offence, which carries a fine of up to \$25,000 unless there is reasonable justification.

When to make a mandatory report

Employers need to make a mandatory report when:

- a teacher is dismissed for any reason
- a teacher resigns from a teaching position, if within the 12 months preceding the resignation the employer advised the teacher it was dissatisfied with, or intended to investigate, any aspect of the teacher's conduct or competence, or on the expiry of the teacher's fixed-term contract
- a teacher ceases to be employed by the employer, and within the following 12 months the employer receives a complaint about the teacher's conduct or competence while he or she was an employee
- the employer has reason to believe the teacher has engaged in serious misconduct
- the employer is satisfied that, despite completing competence procedures with the teacher, the teacher has not reached the required competence level.

The Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 has also introduced new safeguards. The new law requires state-funded services and their contracted providers to safety check (vet and screen) the children's workforce and have child protection policies, to ensure we have a safe and competent workforce for vulnerable children. In addition, those who work with children will need to have their checks updated every three years while their employment or engagement continues.

Transport

All Ministry contracted and funded drivers are legally required to hold a passenger endorsement on their driver's license. One of the requirements of a p-endorsement is a police vetted 'fit and proper' person check. For more information on the check here is a link for you to the ['fit and proper'](#) person check.



Building a new and better future for education and for the community

Ekea Te Pae Kahukura **“Ascend the heights of excellence”**

Mātauraka Mahaanui brings together people from education, rūnanga and community organisations to represent collective ‘mana whenua’ Papatipu Rūnanga and Māori interests. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, as treaty partner, has mandated this group to act on its behalf in the greater Christchurch area.

On Tuesday 8 March, we celebrated the launch of two mana whenua facilitator positions that are part of a new and exciting educational collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Mātauraka Mahaanui. Mana whenua facilitation takes another step in implementing the Māori Medium Strategy 2015 – 2025 and the Māori Achievement Plan 2015-2025. The objectives are for mana whenua to lead and build the education sector’s focus on:

- The ability to raise achievement
- Accelerating Māori language provision
- Enhancing Māori learner outcomes across Canterbury

The mana whenua education facilitator role is a culturally responsive, values based position established to work with learning communities through supporting:

- curriculum enhancement via cultural narratives
- the development of rūnanga/mana whenua specific resources
- collaboration
- Māori learner focused goal setting
- culturally responsive approaches to assessment
- a link for school/education community engagement to mana whenua
- learning communities to take a systematic approach to Māori learner engagement and success
- the growth of leadership and pedagogy in the Māori learning space via authentic engagement
- productive partnerships that support Māori education success
- mana enhancing conversations – growing capacity “in relationship” with others

Corban Te Aika and Dianne Collier have been appointed as mana whenua education facilitators and are excited to have an opportunity to be working in this space. They look forward to introducing themselves to you and working with learning communities in greater Christchurch.