

Education Renewal in greater Christchurch

– secondary school network decisions

What is the scale of the greater Christchurch secondary education network?

- » There are 39 schools across greater Christchurch providing year 9-13 education to almost 27,000 students.
- » This includes four private secondary schools in the Christchurch city area.
- » There are three state schools and one state-integrated secondary school in the Waimakariri District, and three state secondary schools in Selwyn.

Summary of decisions

- » The existing secondary school network will be retained and there will be no closures or mergers (apart from Aranui High School, previously announced as part of the Aranui campus decision and Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti School which is merging with Discovery One School).
- » Two schools – Avonside Girls High School and Shirley Boys High School – will be relocated and rebuilt.
- » Support for the secondary school principals' vision to raise achievement across greater Christchurch secondary schools.
- » More than \$400 million will be invested to support secondary school education renewal.

Existing secondary school network retained

- » The decision to retain the existing network was made because schools are well located and provide good access for students across greater Christchurch. Even with the extensive population changes following the earthquakes utilisation of the secondary network in greater Christchurch remains at a similar level to Wellington, which is the only comparable urban area.

Relocation and rebuild of Avonside Girls High School and Shirley Boys High School

- » Avonside Girls High School and Shirley Boys High School will remain as separate schools on the east of the city and will be co-located on an as-yet undetermined site. Both schools will be new builds and will share some facilities.
- » While it is possible to undertake major repairs and redevelopment on their existing sites, it is comparatively expensive because of the land damage. For a similar cost we can instead build two brand new schools, which will be modern learning environments.



- » We want to locate both schools on the same site. The two schools will continue to operate independently, maintaining their individual character and focus, but will have the opportunity to develop closer collaborative arrangements, including shared facilities, and perhaps even specialist resources.
- » This decision offers an exciting opportunity for single-sex education in the east of the city.

Rolls and enrolment schemes

- » We acknowledge the pressures relating to capacity in the secondary school network since the earthquakes. While some schools have experienced significant growth, others have experienced the opposite.
- » It is encouraging that, when thinking about the future of secondary schools in greater Christchurch, secondary school principals have indicated support for exploring options around rolls and enrolment schemes across the network. There is an opportunity to rethink current arrangements for these. The Minister has decided not to look at the possibility of reducing rolls at this time, instead maintaining those rolls at current levels and prioritising access for local students to local schools.
- » The Minister has been considering existing enrolment schemes for the four single sex schools. Currently parents in large parts of both the east and west of the city do not have access to single sex education for their children. We would like to encourage schools to consider new enrolment schemes that maximise access to both single sex and co-educational schools. For example, the possibility that Avonside Girls High School and Shirley Boys High School would be single sex options for all parents living in the east of the city and Christchurch Boys High School and Christchurch Girls High School options for all parents living in the west. This would provide parents and their children with wider a choice than many currently have.
- » Secondary schools may well have ideas about other enrolment scheme changes that they think should be explored, and are encouraged to have those discussions amongst the secondary principals' learning community cluster and with Ministry staff.

Vision for secondary education in greater Christchurch

- » Recognising the need for a new direction, greater Christchurch secondary principals have been working together on the way forward for secondary education in greater Christchurch since late 2012. Their vision is:

Every secondary aged learner in Otautahi/Christchurch will be engaged in a purposeful, individualised pathway.

The Otautahi/Christchurch education network will be a professional learning community that recognises its collective responsibility to ensure all students learn to their potential based on choice, equality and social justice.



- » The Government supports this vision, which will see a more collaborative approach to secondary education, enabling more flexible learning pathways for students.
 - » Achieving this vision is essential for the future of students, families and communities in greater Christchurch. While student achievement has remained around the national average, NCEA achievement is highly variable across greater Christchurch. Māori and Pasifika learners in greater Christchurch achieve well below their peers in the rest of the country, and there have not been the same recent gains for these learners as has been seen in the rest of New Zealand.
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What will the vision mean for schools and teachers?

- » Across greater Christchurch secondary schools will work more closely with each other, and other education institutions.
 - » Schools will support this vision by developing knowledge and expertise between other schools in their area, or 'precinct'.
 - » Each school will build on its current area of curriculum expertise to develop a leading-edge specialist provision which can then be offered to others. It will also include professional development for teachers, supported by a shared understanding of data around students' progress and goals.
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What will the vision mean for students?

- » At its heart implementing this vision means less focus on tying the student to one school and more focus on students gaining their education via an individualised pathway.
- » Each student would have a home school, a learning plan and a mentor to assist them as they plan their education and access appropriate support as they go through secondary school.
- » A student's learning pathway will be more flexible and significantly enhanced by the use of technology. This will mean students being able to access their education in a range of different ways which better suit their learning style and preferences.
- » Students will have access to curriculum options across schools and institutions, and with the community, where the best expertise lies to suit their aspirations and needs.
- » In practice this will mean that students will be able to:
 - take courses or have lessons at a range of different institutions in any one year
 - access specialist provision while still at school. This could include university courses, or training leading to an apprenticeship or other vocational training
 - have work experience at a range of different employers
 - benefit from expert advice to develop a personalised learning pathway, and support to achieve these goals.



Investment

- » It is proposed to invest more than \$400 million to renew the infrastructure of greater Christchurch secondary schools. Over ten years the Government will spend \$1 billion on the renewal and rebuild of the wider school network.
- » When the renewal process is complete students and teachers in greater Christchurch will be operating in one of most modern schooling networks in the country.

Next steps

- » Now that all network decisions have been made the Minister of Education will shortly be in a position to go to Cabinet with a breakdown of the schedule and associated costings for major infrastructural works over the next ten years. This is a detailed and complex Business Case, one that has been worked on since August last year. There will be a further announcement on the Business Case before Christmas.
- » There is also significant work ahead for principals, schools and their communities as they work together to develop and implement a concrete plan to achieve their vision for education renewal in greater Christchurch.

For more information

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