

Canterbury Regional News

20 June 2016

Kia ora,

Congratulations to all the winners, finalists and nominees of the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. The awards play an important role in celebrating the very best education achievements in New Zealand. They recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements in early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling.

Karanga Mai Young Parents' College and Early Learning Centre in Kaiapoi was awarded the Education Focus Prize – Takatū Prize. The 2016 prize celebrates a focus on collaboration along the whole education pathway to improve health, wellbeing, and learning success for every child and young person. The focus of Karanga Mai is the empowerment of young parents and their children through educational achievement. The Young Parent College and Early Learning Centre work collaboratively to provide a seamless education experience for parent and child in a respectful, inclusive and highly aspirational environment. Congratulations! This is a brilliant recognition of everyone's effort and commitment.

Eighteen months ago the Ministry of Education joined together with early childcare education providers in the Linwood area, schools, NZ Police, the Ministry of Social Development, and local NGOs to work alongside the Linwood community to develop strong neighbourhood connections to build a stronger and safer community.

This collaboration was celebrated last week at the launch of a mobile hub. The mobile hub will maximise the combined efforts of agencies, effectively and efficiently ensuring a positive impact on children. A range of services will be delivered directly to the community. It was a wonderful celebration and a great opportunity to acknowledge everyone who is working together to make a significant difference in the wellbeing and education for children and their whānau in the Linwood community.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



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

Education for Māori

Using information to improve Māori educational success

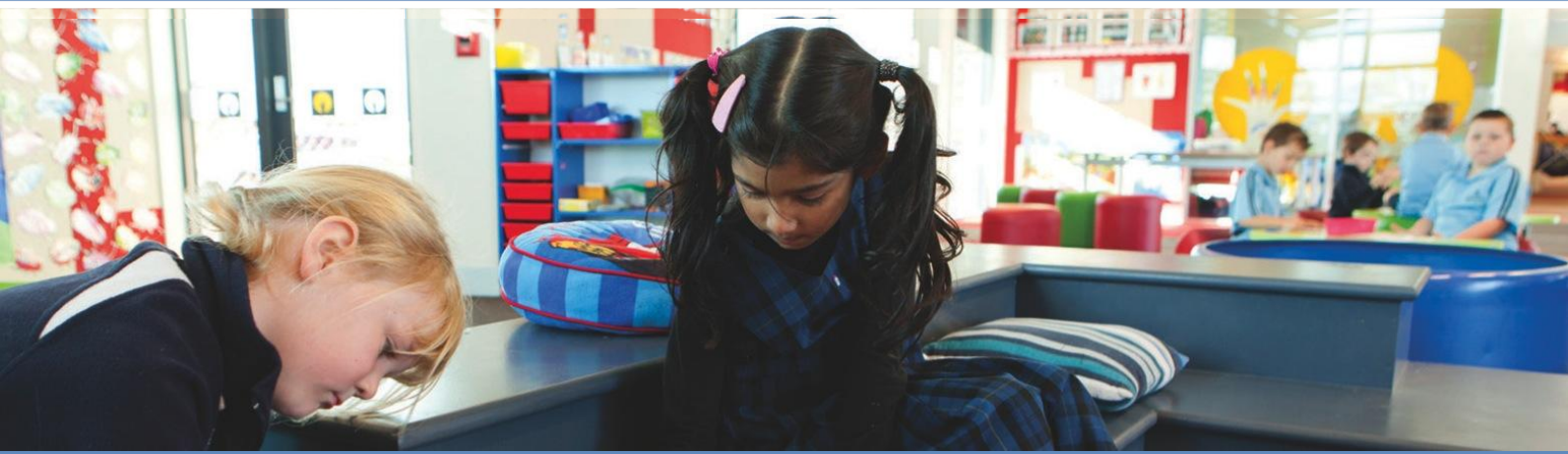
The Auditor-General's report [Education for Māori: Using information to improve Māori educational success](#) was presented to the House of Representatives. This is the third report in our five-year work programme looking at Māori education.

This report focuses on the use of information across the education sector to support Māori educational success. Although Māori educational achievement is improving overall, results for Māori students from roughly similar communities, being educated in roughly similar settings and circumstances, are very different. Schools must collect, analyse and use information about Māori students to ensure that they are doing everything they can to give Māori students the best chance at a great education.

We found schools that used information effectively had better Māori student achievement. In our report, we have included examples of good practice where schools are doing this well. However, some of the information available isn't of the right quality and there are gaps. Also, many of the schools operating in the most challenging circumstances had some of the least experienced leaders. New principals and teaching staff must receive enough support and mentoring to help them do their jobs well.

We have made recommendations for the Ministry of Education and schools to help them improve how and what information they collect and, most importantly, how it is used and shared to make transparent and well-informed decisions about where to invest to improve outcomes for Māori students.

[Watch Senior Performance Auditor James Swindells talk about this report.](#)



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

Refugee and Migrant Support

Census data shows ethnic diversity is increasing in New Zealand. Schools have more families from non-English speaking backgrounds and families are coming from countries where the education system and the parents' role are very different.

Understanding language, local culture and the ways families can be supported to engage with the school, helps parents' confidence in their ability to support their children and is a key to successful resettlement. It is important children are confident in their first language and culture alongside their new English language learning.

There are many different processes and procedures schools can follow to increase the chances of successful adjustment and learning for students from migrant and refugee backgrounds such as upskilling staff to support non-English speaking families, and creating policies and systems that allow parents from non English speaking backgrounds to feel welcomed and part of the school community.

Resources have been developed to support refugee children and their families meet their educational aspirations. Below are some links that you may find helpful.

[ESOL Resources Online](#)

[Refugee Handbook for School](#)

[ESOL Online - a site for teachers to respond to the needs of their English language learners](#)

You can also contact Hassan Ibrahim, Southern Region Senior Advisor: Refugee and Migrant Support if you have any queries. hassan.ibrahim@education.govt.nz



Putting children at the centre of their learning

Funding Review Engagement Invitation

Engagement for the Review of Education Funding Systems for ECE and schooling (the Review) is about to get underway.

We are holding information sessions where I will talk through the Review in more detail and outline the proposed directions for change. For information on sessions please [click here](#). If you are unable to attend please get in touch as I welcome the opportunity to meet with you at a later date, to discuss the Review.

You can also email funding.review@education.govt.nz if you have any questions. Please note engagement closes on Wednesday 31 August and any feedback you have will need to be received by then.

Digital Exhibition - Voices Against War

The [Voices Against War website](#) is one component of an educational peace project, “Pacifist Women, Men and their Families in Canterbury” co-ordinated by the Disarmament and Security Centre (DSC) in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The aim was to identify, research and publicise in a range of forms, the stories of women, men and their families throughout Canterbury who opposed conscription and militarism, supported the conscientious objectors (COs), and campaigned for a new world order before, during and after World War I.

In telling these stories, many of which have not been told before, we are not seeking to dishonour or detract from the bravery and commitment to duty displayed by the thousands of men who served in the New Zealand expeditionary force. But these stories of Canterbury’s forgotten history have a place too, and are an important part of Aotearoa New Zealand’s response to the First World War.

The digital exhibition has been designed to sit alongside planned physical exhibitions at the Wigram Air Force Museum, the Macmillan Brown Library, the Puaka-James Hight Library and the Canterbury Museum.