

Canterbury Regional News

23 September 2016

Kia ora,

I have recently returned from visiting two of our schools on the Chatham Islands. It's great to get to catch up face-to-face to make sure schools in our remote areas are able to access all the support they require. Being able to co-ordinate our work with other agencies also helps ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.

The Learning Support (Special Education) update is working across the whole education system and with sector partners to strengthen inclusion and modernise learning support. The Education Gazette will be highlighting local projects throughout the year. In a recent issue [the Canterbury 'Kua rite mātou – We are ready' project](#) is featured.

Thank you to those who have attended the inter-agency workshops this year on "How to recognise and deal with children and young persons exposed to or at risk of abuse." Representatives from the Ministry, Child Youth and Family, Police and the Vulnerable Children's Team gave advice and good practice examples around the topic. Information has been sent out for the Temuka workshop on Wednesday 2 November from 10am – 1.30pm, at Opihi College Library. Please RSVP to lynne.james@education.govt.nz and remember to bring your Child Protection Policy along for discussion.

The Social Service Providers Aotearoa (SSPA) National Conference will be held in Christchurch, on 27 - 28 October. The Conference theme "Taking Charge of Change: Transformation through Innovation" is open to non-SSPA members. Details of the 2016 Conference Programme are now available at www.sspaconference.org.nz

I attended the farewell celebration for Paparoa Street School Principal Phil Harding this week. It was a celebration of Phil's distinguished career in the primary school sector. Phil's contribution is significant and has been characterised by his generous gifting of time and knowledge to many who sought his counsel. Phil we wish you all the best.

We have come to the end of another busy term. I hope you all manage to get some time to relax during the break ready for another jam-packed term ahead.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



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

Referring a child to the Vulnerable Children's Hub

Whatever a referrer's level of concern about a child, there is no wrong door with the Vulnerable Children's Hub.

Dedicated Hub workers will assess the child's situation through conversations with the referrer and from information from other government agencies and decide on the most appropriate referral pathway. That could either be an NGO like Barnardos, referral to a Children's Team or to Child Youth and Family, or the Police.

You can choose the best way to refer:

- Call the Vulnerable Children's Hub on **0800 367 687**
- Or, online by going direct to the site: <https://viki.govt.nz>
- Or, you can find a link to an [e-referral form here](#)



TIPS FOR REFERRING TO THE HUB

Your time and effort can help to make all the difference for a vulnerable child and ensure that they have the best support put in place to get them and their family/ whānau back on track.

You might like to watch this video of a hub social worker describing a great referral: <https://vimeo.com/168252426>

Our social workers at the Vulnerable Children's Hub have some useful tips if you are considering referring a child.

- The unmet needs of the child – How do the child's unmet needs make him or her vulnerable, and affect his or her daily life and well-being?
- Behaviour of the parent/caregiver – How does the parent/caregiver's behaviour affect the child and his or her behaviour and well-being? Behaviours may be detrimental to the child, or they may be beneficial.
- Interventions and supports – What interventions and supports have been or are being provided to the child or family, from which agencies? Have you spoken to the other professionals involved with the child or family? (While this is not required, it can be helpful in the referral process.)
- Conversation with the family/whānau - Have you made the family aware that you would like to refer their child? This is not required by law, but it is best practice and achieves better outcomes for the child when the family is aware and approves. You will be asked about the family's response to being referred.

If you have any further questions about referring a child to the Hub, please get in touch.

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Putting children at the centre of their learning

Boost for Environmental Education

The Government has released a refreshed National Strategy for Environmental Education for public feedback, and has also renewed funding for the Toimata Foundation charitable trust, which runs the Enviroschools and Te Aho Tū Roa programmes in early childhood centres, schools and kura.

The Ministers of Conservation, Education and Environment say the draft Environmental Education Strategy takes a more collaborative approach than previously, with relevance to businesses, councils, NGOs and community groups as well as schools and will help move environmental education forward.

“Ways of learning, communicating and collaborating have changed dramatically since the original Strategy was released in 1998,” said Associate Minister of Conservation Hon Nicky Wagner.

“I am very pleased with this draft and believe it provides a next step to raise awareness of Environmental Education for Sustainability. It will provide a pathway forward for everyone who supports this work” Minister Wagner added.

“The strategy encourages collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders in our environment and supports projects and initiatives to advance social, environmental and economic sustainability in New Zealand.”

The refreshed National Strategy and feedback process are available on the [Department of Conservation website](#)

Waitakiri with Ministers for the announcement



Students from

Simultaneously, Minister for the Environment, Hon. Nick Smith, also announced renewed funding of the Toimata Foundation charitable trust for the next six years, ensuring growth of the Enviroschools and Te Aho Tū Roa programmes in early childhood centres, schools and kura.

“Funding the Toimata national team will also strengthen engagement of the science community in schools in practical action learning, which links to the National Science Challenges and supports A Nation of Curious Minds” says the Hon Nick Smith.

Over 100,000 children and young people, 9000 teachers and school staff and 85 partner organisations already actively participate in Toimata programmes. These are whole community approaches to empowering young people while creating healthier environments and more collaborative communities.

For every dollar of government funding, Toimata is able to leverage \$8.90 from other sources.