

NCRTL B Newsletter

Haere mai, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu and welcome to the first edition of our NCRTL B newsletter!



Term 1 2016

General Update

Welcome to the first NCRTL B Newsletter for 2016. It has been a busy start to the year with the team setting up the project work and supporting teachers transitioning students from one educational setting to another.

We have seven major projects on this year which includes Provisionally Certificated Teachers-COP, Teacher Aide professional learning, Restorative Practices with Marg Thorsborne, Inclusive workshop for SENCOS and middle leaders, SENCO network days, Incredible Years Teachers and Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative. The team is also working alongside the COLs and LCCs to support cluster achievement goals where appropriate.

The beginning of the year also is a key time for supporting student's transition between educational settings and to date we have supported 122 groups/individuals. You may have noticed that we have tweaked the referral process and closed all cases by week six. This is to capture the total number of referrals made annually and to ensure weeks involved are recorded accurately. Some referrals will be closed, as there is no further role for us. Some will be closed and then re-referred as we continue to support the teachers with the ongoing needs.

Just a friendly reminder before putting through a new RTL B referral, please exhaust all of your schools resources. There should be comprehensive information on the CMS, including an attached adaptive learning plan. Referrals that are incomplete or have insignificant information will not be considered for a service.

Important Dates

15 -17 th March	Restorative Practices with Marg Thorsborne – Leithfield School Hall
21st March	Referral and Intake Meeting
24 th March	Provisionally Certificated Teachers – Community of Practice.
11 th April	Referral and Intake Meeting
20 th May	NCRTL B Inclusive Practices Workshop



The Vulnerable Children's Act

In July 2014 the Vulnerable Children's Act became law. The Act introduces measures to protect and improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children and strengthen our child protection system. There are two key actions that schools are required to take

1. Conduct safety checks on all workers.
2. Develop a child protection policy (CPP) by 1 July 2016.

This CPP must be available on the schools website or on request. The policy must contain provisions on the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Each school also needs to identify a

designated person for child protection and they are the champion for improving child protection practices within your school and also a source of advice and expertise for staff assistance. This person ideally is senior management or someone who is knowledgeable on child protection issues. They would be the primary point of contact for escalating any concerns about a child, including abuse or neglect.

To support the intentions behind the Act, NCRTL B essentially need to know where we can access your CCP and who at each school is the key person we need to keep informed if we have concerns around child abuse or

neglect.

KEY ACTION –

Could each school please email their CPP or a link to this document and the name of the designated person tasked with being the child protection champion? ncrtlb@gmail.com

This will ensure that the RTL B team can support your policy.

Finally, for those schools that have Schooldocs, you will have a demo policy on your site by the end of term 1. Jason Miles recommends Schooldocs and if anyone wants further information please contact him directly.

Working Together!



The School Based Mental Health Team provides a pro-active school based outreach service to support schools in addressing the emerging child and youth mental health issues in Canterbury in the post earthquake recovery stage. The service engages on requests/invitations from schools. The team can provide school-based engagement meetings which aims to build relationships with school

staff, explain the varying interventions that can be provided with a view towards designing a mental health program that fits the culture of the school.

We are privileged in North Canterbury to have Michelle Cole doing this work for SBMH team. In an geographical area where we (agencies) pride ourselves on working together, Michelle has brought another level of working

collaboratively with the RTL B team to support schools with behavioral trends. Specifically, when schools and other services struggle to navigate the DHB, she is working hard to find opportunities to create a seamless service provision between health and education.

If you would like to meet Michelle, drop me an email and I will let you know her details.

NCRTL B Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018

NCRTL B VISION STATEMENT

Quality inclusive educational environments where all students succeed.

OUR MISSION

Through innovation, collaboration and excellence, we will enhance teacher and school capability to improve student outcome.

The cluster needs analysis has now been completed. I want to thank those schools that gave us feedback and provided us with valuable information about the direction they would like to see the service move.

I have just uploaded the 2016-2018 Strategic and Annual plan on to our website www.ncrtlb.school.nz under information for Principals.

Along with the cluster needs analysis, the work over the next three years is also being driven by the MOE – four-year plan and the outcomes from the Special Education update. We have five overarching goals-

1. Provide a responsive service that meets the needs of North Canterbury Schools, promotes inclusion and raises achievement.
2. Target support, expertise and resources to drive innovation and improve educational outcomes.
3. Increase effective collaboration at all levels to raise educational outcomes for students.
4. Support student-centered pathways to raise achievement (transition)
5. Create better access to and use data and information to support more evidence-based decision-making.

One of the key drivers for the work we do is inclusive educational

practice. We are excited about the opportunity to have Judy Cochrane and her team to facilitate a professional learning day on May 20th to specifically look at:

- Planning for all learners from the outset
- Addressing assumptions, beliefs and barriers
- Making adaptations and differentiations
- Belonging and student voice
- Knowing your learners

This workshop will be open to Principals, SENCOs and middle leaders, but will be limited to 50 people. It will be held at Kaiapoi Borough School Hall (thanks Murray!) from 9.30 – 3. I will email out a separate flyer shortly asking for registrations.

Working with other agencies to provide a seamless service is another key area we are dedicating time to improve. I mentioned earlier the relationship between SBMH and the RTL B teams and the work that is being done in this space as an example of how this collaborative practice can enhance the overall service provided to schools. The NCRTL B cluster have also engaged with the MOE around a Special

Education pilot that aims to support Early Intervention and Year One transitions to school. The finer details of this pilot are still being planned, however the RTL B team may be working to develop transition plans to support children with additional learning needs six months prior to them starting school. We are hoping through this collaborative work we can further strengthen the relationship and therefore the service provision to schools when both Special Ed and RTL B teams are involved.

Finally, it is such a privilege to bring Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) to North Canterbury. We are delivering the same content as SWPB4L, however there are no restrictions on which schools can become involved. We currently have seven schools and three pre-schools that have signed up for Tier 1 training this year. The schools will be participating in a combination of teams training days and practical support delivered at school. It is our hope to develop a PBL coaches network across NC to support ongoing implementation and data driven problem solving for managing challenging behaviour and continue to develop restorative practices across schools.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou
 Kelly Watson – Cluster Manager

Bullying-free NZ

*Together we can prevent bullying
 in Aotearoa*

**NEW WEBSITE AND BULLYING PREVENTION
 WEEK LAUNCHING SOON**



New Zealand's first bullying prevention week 16-20 May will also launch an interactive website to help schools and their communities take effective action on bullying.

The Week is an initiative of the Bullying Prevention Advisory Group (BPAG), a collaboration involving 17 organisations from the education, health, justice and social sectors, as well as internet safety and human rights advocacy groups.

The theme of the Week is 'Together we can prevent bullying in Aotearoa', acknowledging schools need the support of whānau and communities to provide safe, positive learning environments for children and young people.

The Week will begin on Monday 16 May with the launch of a new website featuring interactive, evidence-based tools and resources from the popular [Bullying Prevention and Response Guide](#), to help schools take effective action on bullying. Schools can also [sign up](#) for a free Bullying-free NZ activity pack with bullying prevention-themed activity ideas for schools to mark the Week.

Bullying-free NZ Week concludes on Friday May 20, with schools invited to celebrate Pink Shirt Day, the annual event encouraging schools' focus on creating environments where all students feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background.

Schools can sign up at www.BullyingFree.NZ for opportunities to preview and test the new website and order free Bullying-free NZ Week activity packs.