



In Contact

September 2002

The Newsletter of Deaf Education New Zealand Aotearoa
Matauranga Taringa Noa iho Aotearoa • www.deafed.org.nz

Editorial

THE MOST RECENT BOARD MEETING OF DEANZ was held in conjunction with its AGM on the 13th of July in Wellington. The appointment of the National Initiatives Administrator has enabled DEANZ to progress its work more speedily, including the Database for all Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in New Zealand.

This is a huge undertaking and requires a great deal of input from many of the professionals working in the Deaf Education sector. Once completed, the information will provide objective data for the effective planning of service delivery for all deaf and hearing-impaired children throughout New Zealand.

We are interested in the outcome of the "Sensory Stocktake of Issues relating to Children and Young People with Sensory Impairments" which was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health earlier this year, as this should also provide much information about the provision of services to deaf and hearing-impaired children.

The next meeting of the Deaf Education Access Forum will be held in Christchurch in early October and will focus on the training needs for those working in the field of Deaf Education. Information about other initiatives and research will also be presented to the Forum.

**Barbara O'Neill Chair
DEANZ Board**

Deaf Education Access Forum Meetings

As agreed at the Forum meeting held in Wellington in September 2001, DEANZ accepted the responsibility for coordinating Forum meetings based on the successful formula established in previous years.

The Deaf Education Access Forum was established in 1994 and since then has continued to act as a symposium where representatives from all interested parties met to discuss issues related to the education of deaf and hearing impaired children. The Forum has continued to meet since and has proved to be a valuable opportunity for face to face discussions between groups who have an interest in improving the services for deaf and hearing impaired children.

FIRST MEETING

The first meeting hosted by DEANZ was held in Auckland in April of this year. Over 20 people attended for 2 days to focus on discussions based around the National Plan Principal 3:

An equitable, cohesive, nationally, coordinated education service for all deaf and hearing impaired learners is provided in a timely manner from birth to the completion of their school years.

DEAF EDUCATION ISSUES

Every group made a presentation of the issues within Deaf Education now. Through discussions managed by an effective facilitator, everyone agreed on 3 key aspects that require attention when planning for the future services in deaf education. They are **Early, Effective, and Coordinated**. Discussion then took place to identify what needs to happen now, and what needs to happen later in order to achieve a nationally coordinated service.

Invitations have now been sent inviting representatives from organisations to attend the next Forum meeting in Christchurch on October 3 and 4. We will continue to discuss Principle 3 of the National Plan with a focus on the training needs of those working within Deaf Education. We hope there will also be a presentation about the New Born Screening Project to bring us all up to date with progress there.

It is always pleasing to see people listening and discussing issues at hand to find ways to enhance the delivery of services to deaf and hearing impaired students in New Zealand.

“DEANZ will ensure that every child who is deaf in New Zealand receives an equitable, quality and effective education.”

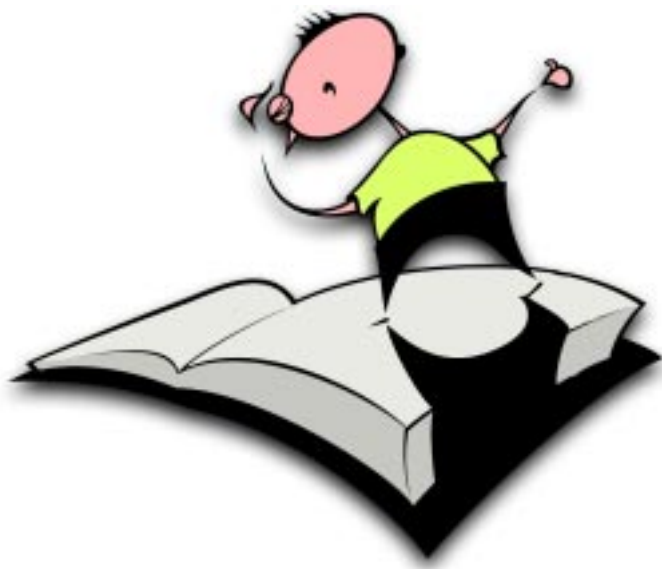
Trustees,
May 2001

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Resource Book for Families

Recently DEANZ, together with the National Audiology Centre are in the process of compiling a resource book for families of newly diagnosed deaf and hearing impaired children in New Zealand.

This publication is based on the *Choices* book published in Australia. The purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive guide outlining the various aspects of New Zealand services to families with children who have a hearing loss.

Sections in the book include

- Your child has a hearing loss
- Hearing, Hearing tests and audiograms
- Hearing Aids and other devices
- Communication
- People involved
- Assistance and Entitlements
- The Deaf community
- Your child grows older
- New Zealand Educational Settings

Organisations throughout New Zealand were invited to submit a service profile outlining their organisation to include in the book. As well, a range of families will provide a short story about their experiences with their deaf child to provide real life experiences.

Once all the profiles and stories have arrived they will be combined with the text into a draft form which will be made available for people to view prior to publishing.

This project brings with it the realisation of the National Plan Principle 4 Goal 6: *Educational Resources for parents will be created and disseminated.* By working closely with the New Zealand Federation for Deaf Children we will develop a publication which will become a valued resource for parents in the future.

Appointments & Achievements

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

In the north, Kelston Deaf Education Centre has appointed Tom Purvis and Christine Miller as the Heads of School. The school at Kelston has over 150 students from preschool to school leaving age. Congratulations Tom and Christine.

Moving down to the Van Asch Deaf Education Centre, Central Region: Niel

Pouwels has accepted the position as the Regional Coordinator for the area extending from Wellington to East Cape and Taranaki. He will be leaving his position as an Adviser on Deaf Children in Rotorua to take up this position. All the best, Niel!

Sally Robinson in Hamilton was elected as the new President for the New Zealand Association of Advisers on Deaf Children. Congratulations, Sally!

Congratulations also to Janet Wilson in Wellington, Janet was re-elected the President of the Association for Teachers of the Deaf.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

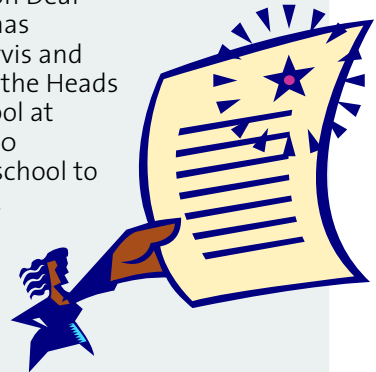
Jim Casey, who heads the Bay of Plenty Hearing House Service, has now gained his International certification as an Auditory Verbal Therapist which involved many hours of training, including 2400 hours of clock experience! Well done, Jim.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES ADMINISTRATOR.

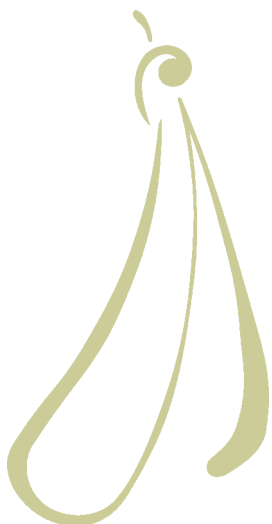
Rachel Noble has been appointed the DEANZ National Initiatives Administrator. Rachel has been involved in the development of the National Plan for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners and was a founding member of DEANZ Board.

Rachel is based within Auckland college of Education sharing office space with Vision Education Agency, a sister organisation. It is an ideal location as it is centrally located amongst agencies in Auckland providing services to deaf and hearing impaired students. There is access to excellent research material within the library as the course for training Teachers of the Deaf is also based on this campus.

You are welcome to visit Rachel in her office H514, Auckland College of Education, or contact her by fax 09 623 8970 or email Rachel@deafed.co.nz



A resource
book for
families of
newly
diagnosed
deaf and
hearing
impaired
children



Database

for All Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in Aotearoa/New Zealand

DEANZ (Deaf Education Aotearoa New Zealand) has been contracted by the Ministry of Education to create a database for all children and young people who are deaf and hearing impaired in New Zealand. This database will:

- Identify all the children and young people who are deaf or hearing impaired
- Record key information to ensure that service provision can be planned and coordinated effectively
- Include a monitoring system

In gathering this information, we will be assisting in the implementation of the New Zealand Disability Strategy (2001), in particular Objective 10:

Collect and use relevant information about disabled people and disability issues' and will be able to inform policy work, service development and monitoring.

For this database, questions have been developed to focus on the following areas:

- Personal Information
- Information on Hearing Loss
- Educational Setting
- Individual Education Programme
- Education Funding
- Education Services
- Access to the Curriculum

CHANGES

Once the initial database has been established there will be a process for checking and updating the data regularly.

This will demonstrate demographic changes within the student population as well as trends within the deaf education sector. As new students are identified their details will be entered into the database.

At present the Teachers of the Deaf from the Deaf Education Centres are gathering the data for the students in their class/caseload. The next stage will see Group Special Education staff provide data for the students on their caseloads.

NUMBERS

It is not known exactly how many deaf and hearing impaired students there are in New Zealand. In 1999 a census showed there were 2,190 deaf and hearing impaired students though it was acknowledged that this data was not accurate. The National Audiology Centre database shows that 3,570 children have been fitted with hearing aids.

This range of partial information demonstrates the need to have an up-to-date database on all deaf and hearing impaired students in New Zealand.

The resulting data will be a rich resource for everyone involved in working with children who are deaf and hearing impaired.

There is a need for an up-to-date database on all deaf and hearing impaired students

Who's who at DEANZ?

Members of the DEANZ Board with the National Initiatives Administrator after their July Board meeting at Newlands College in Wellington.

From left to right: Royce Flynn, parent from Wellington; Janet Wilson, professional from Wellington; Michael Heeney, professional from Rotorua; Barbara O'Neill, Chair and parent from Dunedin; Adrian Tiopira, Maori parent also from Wellington; and Rachel Noble, National Initiatives Administrator, Auckland.



Training

It is hoped that a clear plan can be developed to ensure access to appropriately trained personnel

Issues around the training of those who are employed to work with deaf and hearing impaired learners have been a concern for many groups for years.

The National Plan for the Education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in Aotearoa/New Zealand has two principles with a direct link to training:

■ **Principle 12**
All specialist teachers and specialists' educators employed in the education of deaf and hearing impaired learners are appropriately qualified, competent in communicating with deaf learners, and undertaken ongoing professional development relevant to the needs of learners.

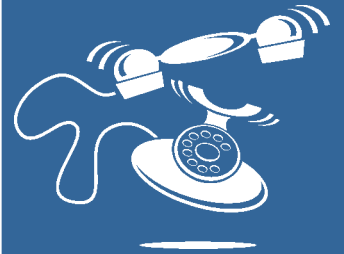
■ **Principle 13**
All teachers will have knowledge of the nature of hearing loss, the basic education needs of deaf and hearing impaired learners and awareness of the relevant education services available and how they might be accessed.

The forum meeting in Christchurch in October will focus on Principle 12 to identify the training needs of service providers as each organisation has been invited to make a 5 minute presentation on the training needs of their service.

For Principle 13, DEANZ is currently conducting a survey to all teacher/teacher aid training providers to identify the current course content in relation to working with deaf and hearing impaired students. A presentation on the findings will be made at the Forum meeting.

The National Database for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in Aotearoa/New Zealand will provide data on students and their learning needs, and will also contribute to the identification of training needs for those employed with deaf and hearing impaired students.

By working together, and with the Ministry of Education, it is hoped that a clear plan can be developed to ensure deaf and hearing impaired learners will have access to appropriately trained personnel.



CONTACT PEOPLE

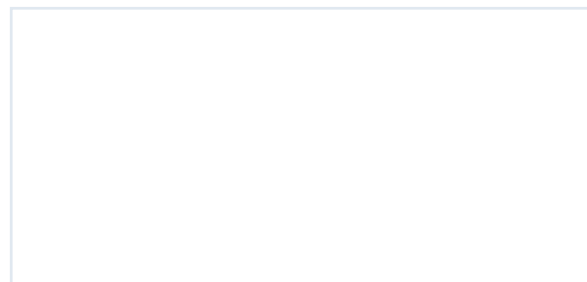
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