



This edition of www.deafed will update you on the review of the National Plan and the activities of the Service Design Group.

NATIONAL PLAN

The process to update the *National Plan for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners of New Zealand* began as part of the overall project involving the establishment of the Service Design Group to implement the Principles of the National Plan.

The intention was to update the data and include recent developments in the introduction. While doing this, parts of the National Plan was also considered and discussed by the community.

It was also necessary to ensure that the National Plan is aligned with government initiatives such as the Disability Strategy and the Statement of Intent and Education Priorities. The current process is now complete and a copy of the revised version will be available on the DEANZ website www.deafed.org.nz

SERVICE DESIGN GROUP

As mentioned in the June *www.deafed* the Service Design Group was established with members of the DEANZ Board and representatives of the core service providers including the Ministry of Education.

The Terms of Reference for the group was ratified by the April Deaf Education Access Forum meeting. The purpose of the Service Design Group was to see progress on the implementation of an effective, nationally co-ordinated service that followed the Principles of the National Plan for the Education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Service Design Group (SDG) has now met on four occasions and gave a presentation at the September Deaf Education Access Forum meeting. Highlights from this presentation include the following:

GOALS & AIM

Our goals include:

- Develop a framework which demonstrates healthy reflective practice.
- Differences in Deaf Education are to be seen as a richness.
- Establish effective pathway for service flow based on the child.
- Retain aspects that are currently working well.

As a group, it was agreed that the aim is to see:

Confident, independent and literate individual with social aptitude and effective communication strategies, who has the knowledge, skills and attitudes to determine their own future and fulfil their own dreams.

SERVICE MATRIX

Through their discussions, the group developed a **matrix** which began by looking at the characteristics of the deaf and hearing impaired learner at each stage, and also looked at the characteristics of the education system at each age/stage. The process identified four Global aspects common to all children and young people. They are:

1. Identification
2. Referral
3. Services
4. Assessment and Monitoring

From here, the needs and services required by each sector (Early Childhood, Primary and High School levels) were developed with clear outcomes stated for each level.

NEXT STEPS

The Service Design Group will meet again in November to discuss the implementation of the matrix into an early, effective co-ordinated service. Discussions will be held with the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development: Office for Disability Issues.

A consultation/Roadshow will be developed and there will be a further update at the April Forum 2004 (Christchurch).