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**Deaf Education New Zealand Aotearoa • Matauranga Taringa Noa iho Aotearoa**

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DEANZ received a clear message from the two previous Deaf Education Access Forum meetings that the sector wanted to see progress on the implementation of an effective, nationally co-ordinated service that follows the principles of the National Plan for the Education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Learners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

As a result, DEANZ developed a proposal that will bring together a group of people, including the stakeholders, to develop a process that will bring the goals of the National Plan into reality.

On March 4, DEANZ presented this proposal to Hon. Lianne Dalziel, the Associate Minister of Education: Special Education and Dr Barbara Disley, Manager Special Education: Ministry of Education and it was positively received.

A copy of the Proposal can be obtained from Rachel Noble at [deanz.rnoble@xtra.co.nz](mailto:deanz.rnoble@xtra.co.nz) or on the website [www.deafed.org.nz](http://www.deafed.org.nz)

There will be a Forum meeting in Wellington on April 14. As there will

be representatives from all the groups this forms a large stakeholder group for valued input on the direction of the development of the implementation stages. On this day we wish to reaffirm the key values, priorities and issues which need to be addressed.

On the following day, the SERVICE DESIGN GROUP will meet for the first time. The core group is composed of DEANZ Board Members and representatives of the core service providers. Their mission is to design a structure that ensure that all deaf and hearing impaired children and young people will be educated within a national equitable cohesive service. The Terms of Reference are included within the Proposal.

The outcome of this group will be communicated to the deaf education community through DEANZ.

We, at DEANZ, are thrilled to see the wheels turning positively to bring the wishes of the member groups to reality through the development of a nationally co-ordinated service.