

2 April 2012

## Supplementary Learning Support and Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour services

The Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata, has agreed for the Ministry of Education to begin work to amalgamate the Supplementary Learning Support (SLS) service with the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) service.

The Ministry will begin this work early in term two so the new amalgamated service will be in place for the start of the 2013 school year. We will seek feedback from representatives of the key education sector groups involved with SLS and RTLb, including the respective unions. We will also seek input on the development of what the new service will look like and how the changes will be put in place.

We want to ensure a smooth transition into the new service for students, their families and whānau, schools and kura, principals and cluster managers, and SLS and RTLb teachers. We will be working closely with those who work with the students to achieve this.

Under *Success for All*, the Government and the Ministry are committed to providing a network of effective special education support to students and schools. In the *Review of Special Education*, educators, parents and whānau indicated that the current system needs to be less fragmented and easier to access. The amalgamated services will create a support system for students with learning and behaviour needs that:

- ▶ is simple to understand and access
- ▶ is flexible and responsive to students' ongoing needs
- ▶ provides seamless support.

Students with ongoing high learning needs who are receiving SLS will continue to be able to access a service that meets their needs for support to participate and achieve.

Further information will be available on the TKI website at <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/> as we progress this work. If you have any questions in the meantime please email [rtlb.enquiries@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:rtlb.enquiries@minedu.govt.nz)