

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



23 May 2011

We are well underway to transform the RTLB service alongside the school sector.

We want you to know of changes that will affect your school. Two ways for you to keep up to date are via this newsletter and Te Kete Ipurangi <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLb-service>

Latest update

- The Practitioners' Working Group met 10 May and then met jointly with the Principals' Working Group on 11 May. Minister Tolley briefly participated in the joint meeting. Key statements from the joint meeting follow.
- We're coming to meet with RTLB and principals around the country to talk through the proposed design of the service. You will also have an opportunity at these meetings to comment on the proposed cluster arrangement. We've already met with Auckland Primary Principals' Association Executive 18 May, Christchurch RTLB 19 May, and RTLB Māori 20 May. Please see the details of further regional hui which follow.

Key statements from joint meeting

As members of the working groups on RTLB transformation, this was a great meeting, we had robust debate and tested our thinking from the RTLB and principal perspectives. Some of the points discussed were:

- We fleshed out many of the details relating to transitions issues.
- The proposed cluster arrangement will be reviewed at a more local level after regional hui and the final arrangements will be published in July.

UPDATE on RTLB Transformation

In this issue

Latest update

Key statements from the joint meeting

Regional hui

FAQs

- Related to the design of the service:
 - how we utilise specialist knowledge within clusters (eg Māori, Pasifika, secondary, ASD) through specialised teams or expert go-to people
 - the role of needs analysis in allowing clusters to self-determine some elements of the service
 - the content of the draft revised RTLB model of practice
 - how the model of practice could reflect secondary practice
 - the essential elements of a good lead school, good lead principals, good cluster managers and how lead schools would be selected.
- Related to support systems:
 - how to ensure lead schools are adequately resourced and well supported to undertake the lead school role without being disadvantaged
 - the training and support required for cluster managers and principals in lead schools
 - the administrative support required to support new and larger clusters
 - guidelines for how RTLB funding should be utilised.
- Related to policies and procedures:
 - what governance and management documents should cover
 - how we develop a transparent, consistent, national system for measuring and evaluating the RTLB service and success against ERO's baseline data.

Regional hui

Working group members and members of the Ministry's project team are organising and presenting at regional hui. We encourage all principals and RTLB to attend. The calendar is also on Te Kete Ipurangi and will be updated as details are confirmed here: <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLb-service/May-and-June-Hui>

Date	Time	Region or sector group	Venue
Wednesday 18 May	8:00 a.m.	APPA Exec	Ellerslie Convention Centre
Thursday 19 May	10:00 a.m.	Christchurch - RTLB	Wharenui School hall
Friday 20 May	8:30 a.m.	Maori RTLB	Ministry of Education - National Office
Wednesday 25 May	10:30 a.m.	Whangarei principals	Kensington Hockey Stadium
Wednesday 25 May	1:30 p.m.	SPC - PPTA	PPTA National Office
Thursday 26 May	9:00 a.m.	Auckland - North - RTLB	Windy Ridge School hall
Thursday 26 May	10:30 a.m.	Auckland - North - Principals	Windy Ridge School hall
Thursday 26 May	1:00 p.m.	Auckland - Central - RTLB	Royal Oak Primary
Thursday 26 May	2:30 p.m.	Auckland - Central - Principals	Royal Oak Primary
Friday 27 May	9:00 a.m.	Auckland - West - RTLB	Learning Network Centre
Friday 27 May	10:30 a.m.	Auckland - West - Principals	Learning Network Centre
Friday 27 May	1:00 p.m.	Auckland - South - RTLB	Kia Aroha College
Friday 27 May	2:30 p.m.	Auckland - South - Principals	Kia Aroha College
Wednesday 1 June	Tentative	Christchurch - Principals	TBA
Friday 3 June	10:30 a.m.	HB - RTLB	Havelock North
Friday 3 June	2:00 p.m.	HB - Principals	Ministry office at 8A Lever Street, Ahuriri, Napier
Wednesday 8 June	12:30 p.m.	Lower Hutt	Avalon Intermediate
Thursday 9 June	9.00am	Queenstown	TBA
Friday 10 June	1:00 p.m.	Invercargill - RTLB & Principals	Aurora College
Monday 13 June	1:00pm	Nelson - RTLB & Principals	Nelson Bridge Club
Wednesday 15 June	10:00am	Taupo	TBA
Thursday 16 June	10:00am	Hamilton	TBA
Friday 17 June	9:00am	Waiariki (Tauranga Rotorua) RTLB	TBA
Friday 17 June	1:30pm	Tauranga- Principals	TBA
Monday 20 June	10:30am	Dunedin	TBA
Tuesday 21 June	1:00pm	Timaru - RTLB & Principals	TBA
Wednesday 22 June	11:30am	NZAIMS Executive	NZEI National Office
Thursday 23 June	11:00am	Wanganui/ Palmerston North - RTLB and Principals	TBA
Friday 24 June	10:00am	Taranaki	TBA
Monday 27 June	10:30am	Gisborne	TBA
Tuesday 28 June	Tentative	Tai Tokerau	TBA
Thursday 30 June	1:30 p.m.	Otaki/Kapiti Principals Association	TBA

Please note that these details are accurate as at the time of emailing, however we will be updating the calendar on Te Kete Ipurangi, regularly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: The term 'specialist RTLB' has been used throughout the transformation. What does this actually mean?

A: The original intention of having 'specialist RTLB' was that clusters would have RTLB who met the needs of specific groups of students. For example, Māori students, students in secondary schools, students with autism.

Following rigorous discussion in the working groups, it was proposed that rather than identifying RTLB as being specialist in one area, having RTLB with expertise in certain areas would better reflect the needs of the cluster and the students they support.

Q: Will the Ministry be setting specific expertise that each cluster should have?

A: It is expected that the cluster needs analysis will determine the expertise RTLB should have to meet the needs of the specific settings and student needs in the cluster. This could include expertise in supporting Māori students, Pasifika students and students in secondary schools.

Q: Will clusters that currently have RTLB working well in secondary schools lose their service?

A: It is not the intention of the transformation to take support away from secondary schools. RTLB will work where the identified needs are in the cluster. A cluster's needs analysis may show that they require a RTLB or a team of RTLB with expertise in secondary settings within the cluster.

Q: Why is there such variability in the proposed cluster sizes nationally?

A: Although over half of the proposed clusters generate between 15 and 23 RTLB, there are clusters at either end of the scale. In some cases, large distance was seen as a rationale for having a smaller cluster. For example, in the South Island, keeping to strictly 20 RTLB per clusters would result in 8 clusters to cover the whole island. It was thought that the distance covered would be too large to be managed well. On the other hand, in Auckland, 20 RTLB are generated over a relatively small distance. It was seen as beneficial to have more RTLB working in a cluster delivering services to geographically close schools. The proposed arrangements will be revised following consideration of feedback before clusters are finalised in July.

Q: Why have clusters of 20 RTLB?

A: The focus of the transformation is on improved governance and management. We are working towards clusters with more clearly targeted management and support for the new service. Dedicated management positions cannot be achieved without aggregating the attached staffing component. As each RTLB position attracts 0.05 attached staffing, 20 RTLB are required to generate a full time management position. The formula is $0.05 \times 20 = 1$.

Q: Why can't just the cluster manager be employed by the new lead school and RTLB stay employed by their current employing school?

A: The 2009 ERO report found that cluster effectiveness was strongly influenced by leadership. In clusters that were led effectively the work of RTLB was well managed, monitored and evaluated. Through the transformation we are looking to replicate effective leadership in all clusters. It is envisaged that one school in each cluster that employs the manager and RTLB will lead to improved accountability. There are no effective competency management models for staff employed through another employer.

Q: Will there be an increase in travel costs for clusters that cover large geographical areas?

A: The funding rate for travel is allocated according to the geography, size and number of schools in the cluster. As every RTLB position in the cluster generates at least the minimum level of funding, the aggregated funding should cover the travel needs of the cluster. However, as is the current process, if a cluster has exceeded, or predicts it will exceed, the total cluster travel fund, they can apply for additional travel funding through the resourcing process.

Contact us by 30 June 2011...

...to give us your feedback on how to improve the proposed new service. This will enable us to consider your collective feedback before we complete the design process.

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