

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



RTLB Matters: Issue 5 2012

4 April 2012

Important Dates

Cluster Manager Forums:

- Auckland - 10 May (Cluster Nos 1-20)
- Wellington - 8 May (Cluster Nos 21- 40)

Programme will be circulated in early Term 2.

Amalgamation of Supplementary Learning Support service with the RTLB service

Minister Parata has made the decision to amalgamate the SLS and RTLB services from the beginning of 2013. This was announced at the Learning Support Teachers' conference in Hamilton on Monday. You had been given indication that this was on the cards.

A letter has been sent to all RTLB Lead School principals and to LSTs' schools. As well, we spoke to most RTLB lead school principals by phone on Monday to ensure you didn't find out about the announcement second hand.

There will be implications for your clusters as the LST positions will move across into your clusters. However the detail of how that will happen is still to be worked through.

We have set up a place on the RTLB website on TKI to provide information as we work through this amalgamation. Go to <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/SLS-and-RTLB-amalgamation>

Previous Fund-holder RTLB funds

I know this is a frustration for many clusters. Where you have had agreement, and been able to invoice, that's great, but in those cases where a previous fund-holder has not informed you of the amount, the final funding can not be confirmed or passed on and until accounts have been audited. However an indicative total should be available to new lead schools. Local Ministry offices are currently following up with those schools.

Reporting Templates

We are working on developing templates for your Annual and Quarterly reporting. We hope to have them ready for you early in Term 2. They will be based on your Funding and Service Agreement (Contract) and will be kept as simple as possible to reduce the burden of reporting. We are very conscious that whatever we ask you to provide is needed and useful. We don't want data or information that sits forever unseen, unanalysed or in any way superfluous.

Additional salary payment for RTLB Lead School Principals

This was due to occur in this pay period. However, I understand there has been a 'glitch' with Payroll. We are working to 'un-glitch' the issue and have our fingers crossed that it will occur before the end of April. I want to assure you that the payment is not a myth, just delayed. Our apologies for this – I'm just as frustrated as you are with the situation.

The Rumour Mill

We have heard a rumour that the Ministry is funding clusters 30% less than last year and that the funding for LSF, Y11-13, travel and admin are all less than they were under the old cluster system. There is no basis to this rumour.

Year 11-13 Funding

We are very aware that moving from a pro rata to a needs based allocation has, in some clusters, been a difficult process. We want to thank you for managing this process with schools in your area. We're hearing that the change has opened possibilities for enhanced practice and innovative interventions. Yet again, you have shown how well you manage difficult relationships with aplomb! Thank you.

And finally.....

Attached is a FAQ sheet which covers

- Referrals for students who are receiving other services

Hei konā rā
Anne

Anne Tuffin
Project Manager RTLB
Special Education Strategy | Ministry of Education | Level 3 | 45-47 Pipitea Street
PO Box 1666 | Thorndon | Wellington 6140
DDI +64 463 8954 | Extn 48954 | Mobile 64 27 441 5693

RTLb FAQs (4 April 2012)

Referrals for students who are receiving other services

Q: Can you please clarify whether RTLb can accept referrals for students who are receiving other services eg RTLit, RTDeaf, Students who receive ESOL funding, High health needs, migrant refugees, reading recovery, SLS where there are behaviour concerns, MOE Behaviour referrals?

A: The short answer is yes.

The longer answer:

RTLb can accept referrals for students who are receiving other services but the type of service might differ. For example an RTLb would not plan a full-on assessment if a child was undertaking reading recovery but might work with the reading recovery teacher to support the student's behaviour.

It is unlikely that if a child is receiving an intensive SE behaviour service a referral to RTLb would be warranted. It might be that SE and RTLb work together - for example where a child receiving an SE behaviour service might transition to RTLb and the two services may work collaboratively for a time. Also there are districts/clusters where the working relationships between RTLb and SE is a very collaborative one e.g. where the RTLb does some of the in-school work of observing or monitoring a plan for the SE Leadworker.

There is no reason why students who qualify for High health needs would not have access to RTLb. HHN only generates teacher's aide support so the students can safely be at school with their medical concerns. Similarly for students who receive ESOL funding and migrant refugees.

SLS teachers may refer to RTLb if they want assistance with behaviour concerns. If there are behavioural concerns there is no reason why RTLit could not seek advice and support from RTLb.