

By now you might have read about this in the media or on social media. I apologise for the communication delay due to this appointment being made official during the school holiday period.

The pace and volume of change in Deaf Education in the last few years has been considerable. With the introduction of a Combined Board of Trustees (2012), the NZSL@School project being introduced (2014) then integrated into our daily practise, welcoming nearly 2000 children over the age of 8 who were previously receiving services from an AODC onto our caseload under the ASSIST programme (2014 onwards), and a complete rebuild of our Archibald Road premises (completed 2016) being some of the most significant.

Kelston and van Asch Deaf Education Centres were visited by ERO in 2016. As part of that review, the Board asked ERO to consider a shortened review cycle, to allow us to focus on our core business, rather than on managing consistent change. During the following months the Deaf Education Centres have been working with Ministry appointed SAF (Student Achievement Function) practitioners. This service has been welcomed and is proving to be most rewarding.

The Board has asked the Ministry for additional support. Staff were advised of this request late in term 2 at a staff meeting and this was also included in the KDEC Bulletin. On July 13th it was announced in the NZ Gazette that a Limited Statutory Manager will be working with KDEC around finances, student management and welfare.

Terri Johnstone has been appointed to this role by the Ministry, and will start her work in Term 3. The first month will be spent doing a scoping exercise, to figure out what the extent of her work will be. At the conclusion of the scoping exercise, Terri will present an outcome plan to the Ministry and the Board so that we can collectively make a plan for the coming months.

During this time staff, students, and their families can expect to see 'business as usual', and once Terri's Plan has been agreed to by the Board and the Ministry, any changes will have a timeline put in to place for their implementation. Terri has been engaged by the Board in the past in a different role, and made a positive impact for students and staff. We are very happy to make use of her services once again.

All of this happens at the same time the Board is needing to recruit and engage a new CEO/Principal. We are aware that this is an unsettling time for all, but it is our hope that at the conclusion of this process we will be on far stronger ground, and the organisation is more than ready to meet the next round of challenges and improvements for Deaf Education throughout New Zealand.

Rachel Douglas

Board Chair

KDEC and van Asch Deaf Education Centres

Links:

NZSL translation of this message <https://youtu.be/Eq8AHLi2KbA>

Gazette notice: <https://gazette.govt.nz/home/NoticeSearch?keyword=kelston+deaf>

NZSL translation of gazette notice https://youtu.be/0Gs_Zbm3DDQ