

21 June 2017

CEO – Kelston Deaf Education Centre

David Foster has been on leave from his role at KDEC since the start of this year. David has taken medical advice and unfortunately will not be returning to work at KDEC. He has resigned effective 5 September.

The Board would like to thank David for the work that he has done and the impact he has made over the last 17 years. It has been a time of great change in the Deaf Education sector, moving from a focus on students enrolled at the day school provisions to a much wider focus including deaf and hard of hearing students in mainstream schools receiving services from KDEC and most recently transfer of students from the AODC caseload at year 3 to come under the umbrella of the DECs.

His time at KDEC has also seen an almost complete replenishment or refurbishment of the buildings our students learn in, with new facilities at Oteha valley on the North Shore, new or upgraded provisions at Kelston Primary, Intermediate and Boys and Girls High Schools, new provisions in South Auckland at Ormiston Primary, Junior and Senior College, new facilities co-located with BLENNZ in Tauranga and Hamilton, and of course the major rebuild at Kelston Deaf Education Centre with the demolish and rebuild of the Offices, Early Childhood Centre and the Residences all opening in 2017.

David has also worked very hard on partnerships in deaf education. Together with the Ministry he has driven projects like the Combined Board of Trustees and the NZSL at School project to their fruition. David has also ensured that Deaf staff have been fully involved in the development of the NZSL curriculum and most recently NCEA standards for NZSL. He has made a significant contribution to the partnership with The Hearing House to develop and deliver cochlear implant services. With Ngati Turi, David has facilitated the relocation and redevelopment of Ruaumoko Marae which will ensure that the needs of Maori Deaf students continue to be a key focus.

Student achievement has always been the key driver for David. The Board is very sad to see David go, but we are glad of the platform he has helped to create from which we can springboard Deaf Education to the next level for New Zealand.

The Board would like to thank the staff who have worked very hard to maintain the excellent work of Kelston Deaf Education Centre in David's absence.



Rachel Douglas
Board Chair

For NZSL version please go to the following link:
https://youtu.be/T7Pbgy_6D1k