

NEWSLETTER for Christchurch early childhood services and schools

October 2011

Kia ora.

The earthquakes will, of necessity, lead to changes in the way education is delivered in the region in the future.

We have worked hard with you to repair damaged early childhood, school and tertiary facilities to enable children and young people to continue their learning.

But, given the extent of the damage to land and property, and the number of children and young people who have moved away, we simply won't be able to put things back together again exactly as they were.

This offers us a unique opportunity to introduce some fresh thinking into the future shape of education in greater Christchurch.

We would like you, your children, students, and families to be a part of that.

This week, the Minister of Education launched the engagement process, including a website, <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz>, to provide information and gather feedback, which will help with the development of a draft Education Renewal Recovery Plan to guide the future shape of education in greater Christchurch.

The draft Plan will be developed over the next few months, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of educational leaders, teachers, city and business leaders, and Ngāi Tahu during a series of targeted focus groups.

Resource material is also available to support wider group discussions, helping teachers engage children and young people.

We encourage you to log in, explore the key themes, and provide your comments and to publicise the opportunity widely to your own communities.

Ma te wa,

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DRAFT EDUCATION RENEWAL RECOVERY PLAN

A strong education system, from early childhood to tertiary, will be critical to the redevelopment of Canterbury and its economy in the wake of the earthquakes.

That is why the Ministry of Education and Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) have been asked to work with the community to develop a draft Education Renewal Recovery Plan that will meet the educational needs of children and young people and support the social, cultural and economic recovery of greater Christchurch.

The Ministry is seeking input from the sector and wider community on ideas and options for the future of education over the coming six weeks.

Because we recognise education affects us all in many different ways, whether as children, students, youth, parents, family, whānau, business or civic leaders, we also encourage you to also invite your community to participate in the process.

They can read more and provide their feedback by logging onto shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz

The resulting draft Plan will be considered by government and released for wider public consultation in the new year.

Once approved, the Education Renewal Recovery Plan will complement and contribute to the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's Recovery Strategy.

It will sit alongside a proposed finance and funding recovery plan, an economic recovery plan, a social recovery plan, a built heritage recovery plan, built recovery plans, a natural recovery plan and a range of recovery programmes.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER:

We would like you to include this information in your newsletters, or other communication with your community.

The Ministry of Education and Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) have been asked to work with the community to develop a draft Education Renewal Recovery Plan that will meet the educational needs of children and young people and support the social, cultural and economic recovery.

If you are interested in having your say on the future shape of education in greater Christchurch go to <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz>

Themes

In the wake of the earthquakes, there will need to be significant investment across the education system over the medium to long term.

We know that you will want us to spend this money wisely and well.

The challenge is to develop a way forward that will not only lift education outcomes and deliver on community needs, but will also be innovative and cost effective.

We're keen to hear what your community thinks, but if we are to deliver a draft Plan that accurately reflects community views, we need to have some guidelines around the discussions that will be taking place.

Three key themes have been identified that will be critical in determining the future of education.

The first is **purpose**: - which, quite simply, is about capturing the aspirations of the people who live here for the future education system.

The second is **shape**: - which is about what early childhood services, schools and tertiary, both individually and collectively, should do and should look like in the future. This includes formal and informal learning environments and classrooms.

The third is **delivery**: - which is around how we tailor teaching and learning to develop every child, and young persons' potential.

We will be asking three simple questions around each theme:

- 1: the things you liked about the way things were,
- 2: the things you'd like to change, and
- 3: any new things you'd like us to think about.

We encourage you, your board, management committee, staff, students and parent community to work through the three themes and read the material we have provided and provide comments to us.

Your thoughts and those of your staff, children, students and families will help us develop a draft Plan that will meet the needs of learners to ensure the social, cultural and economic recovery of the region in the wake of the earthquakes.

Remember we are looking for feedback on the overall direction for education, from early childhood to tertiary, and how it should be delivered across greater Christchurch in the future.

While decisions on land and where people live are still being made, it is too early to talk about which school or ECE service is needed where.

There will be an opportunity for further discussion once the draft Plan is released for consultation in the new year.

Resources:

The views of your children and young people are important to us in developing the draft Education Renewal Recovery Plan, which after all affects their futures.

We have developed some [resource material for teachers](#) to encourage conversations among children and young people about the future shape of education in greater Christchurch. (*This material will be live on Thursday.*)

We invite you to use the teaching plan to talk with them to gather their views and provide us with feedback from those discussions.

We also know your community is interested in being part of developing the draft Plan.

If you want to start a discussion of your own with your own community, we invite you to use the [engagement kit](#) to continue to explore the three themes of purpose, shape and delivery with your wider networks of colleagues and peers and provide us with your feedback from those discussions. (*This material will be live on Thursday.*)

MORE INFORMATION:

Email us at:
shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz