

## Newsletter Akuhata Term 3, 2023

**Tēnā koutou Principals and Tumuaki,**

### Staff Changes

At the end of Term 2 we farewelled three team members. Tony Kirby and Sharron Guy both retired after many years in education, including as members of the RTLB service. Gail Dewar has moved on to a position at Otaki College.

### New Appointments

We are very excited to welcome the following new members to our team:



Ashley Rance is in her sixth year of teaching, and has in depth knowledge and experience with the New Zealand Curriculum. She most recently taught Year 3 and 4 at Hampton Hill School where she was a syndicate leader. Previously Ashley taught Years 2 and 5 at Queen Margaret College. Ashley has a Masters of Teaching and Learning from Massey University.

Jamie Purkiss has come to us from his previous position as Deputy Principal at Russell Street School in Palmerston North. Jamie and his family are relocating to Wellington so he is taking the opportunity to return to the role of RTLB as he was previously an RTLB in Wanganui with Cluster 25 and has completed the mandated study.



Grant Henderson has accepted a two-term position with the cluster and started last week. Grant was previously the principal of Titahi Bay North School and will offer his support to a small number of colleges in our area during the time he is with us.

Following the resignation of Sharron Guy, Diana-Grace Morris has been promoted to the position of Practice Leader for the team providing support to our schools in East Wellington.

## RTL B Staffing

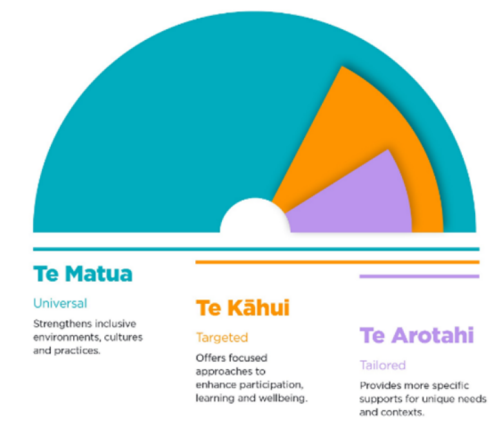
On 17 May we were one of thirty RTL B Clusters who received a letter from the Ministry advising us that decreases in school rolls (based on March roll-return data) may result in a reduction in our RTL B staffing entitlement for 2024. Our current entitlement is 39 FTTE + 1 cluster manager. We expect to hear from the Ministry by the second week in October or earlier to confirm if a reduction is needed based on the July roll-returns.

Jason Ataera and I have informed our RTL B and we will work with both NZSTA and the NZEI should a reduction be necessary. Our Cluster is working towards managing any possible reduction through attrition. We are already on this journey as we did not make a permanent appointment to a vacated RTL B position at the end of last term.

## Working with Ministry Learning Support

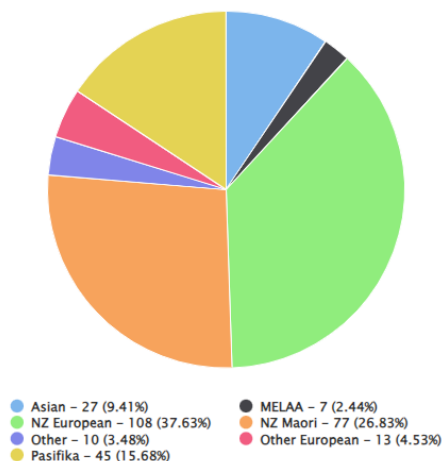
Following the Ministry's recent Te Mahau restructure, we are continuing to work closely with our Ministry Learning Support colleagues. Our geographic 'patches' align and many of you will have experienced the benefits of the two services working in partnership with you to provide tailored support in response to your needs.

## Requests for Support



Our team of RTL B are increasingly working at Te Matua to meet the needs of all mokopuna and staff across the whole education setting. We are partnering with leaders and educators to strengthen everyday teaching practices and environments.

Allocated Requests by Ethnicity



In addition to working at Te Matua and Te Kāhui, we are currently supporting teachers to manage the needs of 245 individual students. This graph provides data on the ethnicity of those mokopuna benefiting from tailored support through their teachers.

### **RTLB Learning Support Funding**

As an outcome of our hui at Tairangi School early in Term 2, three principals and a SENCO from our schools have taken the opportunity to attend one of our last three Funding Committee Meetings. We have appreciated their input into allocation discussions. If you would like to attend one of our upcoming meetings in Weeks 3, 6 or 9 of terms 3 and 4, please contact me.

To date \$114,000 of the \$212,000 we have available for Learning Support Funding has been allocated to schools. 73% of the funding has been allocated towards the cost of employing teacher aides and 20% to provide teacher release for them to meet with RTLB to collaboratively develop plans of support.

### **RTLB Resources**

We would appreciate it if you could check your shelves for any resources that belong to our Cluster. Please pass these on to RTLB as you see them in your schools so they can be returned to our resource bank.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to provide feedback on what has been going well or to discuss how we can better meet the needs of your school and mokopuna.

Ngā mihi

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