

RTL B Manawanui Cluster 10

Memorandum

To Jeremy Nicholls, Chairperson Board of Trustees

Cc Pauline Cornwell, Lead Principal

Date 15 October 2020

Subject RTL B Report October 2020

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board

- approves the Qualitative Report
- notes the RTL B October Report
- notes the highlights reported – IY programmes, LCSW project

Funding Agreement

348 cases have been allocated – at the same time last year 356 cases had been allocated

145 cases have been closed

76.6% of individual cases are male; 23.4% are female

49.6% of individual cases state Pasifika as their ethnicity, 29.3% are Maori, 7.0% are NZ European, 7.6% are Asian

28.7% of referrals are Learning & Behaviour, 9.2% are Behaviour cases and 62.1% are Learning cases.

7/29 schools have more than fifteen cases - the range is 1-30 cases

Learning Support Fund

As of 25 September 131 applications from 24 schools have been approved totally \$110,620 of a total budget of \$183,000. All applications must be linked to Referrals. The Cluster Manager has a delegation of less than \$5000. The delegation for \$5000-\$9999 rests with the Principal.

The two school closures as a result of Covid 19 has placed pressure on being able to fully commit the 2020 LSF budget; however the Ministry has advised that any unspent funds can be carried over to 2021.

Staffing

Manawanui Cluster 10 has a staffing entitlement of 29 RTL B and a Cluster Manager. An administration support officer is employed 0.5FTE. This position is funded through the RTL B administration grant.

For most of the term the Cluster had 27 RTL B. Two vacant positions were filled with Rebecca Hamilton and Verinia Mitchell commencing employment as RTL B on 12 October.

In the last week of term three resignations were received from Bipin Shankar and Jane Keir. Jane is currently a Practice Leader and has been appointed to the Cluster Manager role in Cluster 6 (Central-West Auckland).

Study

All newly appointed RTLB must complete the two year Post Graduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching within four years of their first appointment as an RTLB. RTLB are supported by a Ministry Study Award and the cluster contributes a study time allowance – usually a day a week.

There are currently five RTLB completing their second year of the course and it is anticipated they will all graduate. Both Rebecca and Verinia have been accepted into the first year Post Graduate Studies in Specialist Teaching for 2021.

In addition, three RTLB will be enrolled in the second-year course in 2021.

October Qualitative Report

One of the reporting requirements of the Funding Agreement is that the Cluster submits a Qualitative Report to the Ministry of Education on the first Friday of each term – except term one. The Qualitative Report is a Risk & Issues summary.

The draft October Qualitative Report is attached.

Covid 19 Level 3 Alert

Under COVID Level 3 Alert RTLB worked from home between 12 August and 28 August. Each RTLB undertook a work programme to support students in schools. This often meant zoom, zui, google hangouts with teachers and students.

RTLB have noted the challenges of the stop-start nature of their cases and the impact this is having on the learning of students they work with.

RTLB have engaged in a number of evidence-based trauma programmes to support students e.g. Seasons for Growth.

Incredible Years Programmes

Despite the need to reschedule IY programmes due to COVID 19 the Cluster is successfully delivering a range of IY programmes. Three RTLB have completed the IY Parenting programme. An IY T for school leaders programme has commenced, which involves 8 school leaders and two IY for Teachers programmes are underway with 27 teachers involved. We are also the first Auckland RTLB cluster to deliver the IY Autism for Teachers programme involving 13 teachers – this featured in an Education Gazette item (7 September 2020 Vol.99. No 14.). In 2021 three schools have been involved in the teacher aide behaviour management programme, which is styled on the IY format.

Learning Communications Support Worker Project

In 2019 the Cluster supported a pilot Learning Communications Support Worker Project (LCSW) at Puhinui School. The project supports students who have oral literacy challenges and augments the work of the Ministry's Speech Language Therapists. This year the project has been expanded to include: Papatoetoe Central School, Papatoetoe East School, South Auckland Seventh Day Adventist School and Wymondley Road School.

The project involves upskilling a LCSW (similar to a specialist teacher aide) with a programme of professional development provided by the Ministry of Education's SLTs. The LCSW is supported by the RTLB and the SLT to work with small groups of students to develop their oral literacy skills.

Funding support is made available through the Learning Support Fund, with schools able to access 15 hours of funding for the LCSW for the first 18 months of the project. Schools are then expected to incorporate the project within their operations grant.

A preliminary report from the Wymondley Road School LCSW Project is attached to this report.

He Pikorua

In recent years RTLB have followed a ten-step sequence as the theory of improvement. This has now been replaced by He Pikorua. He Pikorua supports the learning and wellbeing of mokopuna by aligning the practices of Ministry of Education and Resource Teachers Learning and Behaviour under one framework.

He Pikorua, a flexible practice framework, positions RTLB to respond to learning support needs in an increasingly complex and fast moving context. Creative and adaptive local solutions can be guided by the principles of He Pikorua, using a collaborative inquiry approach.

The five RTLB clusters in South Auckland are working alongside the Botany office of the Ministry to develop an implementation plan so that all case work from January 2021 is based on He Pikorua.

RTLB Administration Budget (see also Finance Report)

The July Board Report identified some areas of underspend in the RTLB Administration Budget. Most of the underspend is a result of the Covid-19 close down of schools. The Alert Level 3 close down has exacerbated some of the underspend as well as truncating some of the RTLB support for schools.

The Ministry has advised that any unused funds from 2020 may be carried over to 2021.

Flexible Working Arrangements

After the first Covid 19 lockdown the Cluster introduced a Work from Home policy and operational procedures. Following a review of the policy, which included feedback from the Board and SENCOs the policy and operational procedures were amended as a Flexible Working Policy. Feedback from schools has generally been very supportive with no concern expressed about a deterioration in service delivery. RTLB who access FWA are very supportive of the policy, which they say enables them to complete the “paper-work” of their cases without the usual interruptions of being in the office.

Raymond Webb
RTLB Cluster Manager