



Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Incorporated

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Supported by RNZFB

Minister Hide delivers with the Review of Special Education

Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ.) Inc. (PVI) acknowledges the \$69 million additional funding over four years for special education funding as a result of the Review. This is an outstanding achievement in the current economic environment.

Inclusive education has been a major thrust of the Review. Now the focus will be assisting schools to build up the capacity and capability to take all children in their community - with quality and appropriate specialist support for those who need it!

Sensory impaired students are big winners... From 2012, the approximately 600 children who are ORRS funded who are Deaf, Blind or have Low Vision will have the opportunity to receive more flexible specialist services and support. This means the transfer of the ORRS 0.1 and 0.2 component will now automatically go to Blind and Low Vision Education Network of NZ (BLENNZ) or the Deaf Education Centres, for those students verified as Deaf, Blind or have Low Vision. PVI understands this will equate to a new Resource Teacher Vision/Student ratio of 1:19, (current ratio is approx 1:28). This is huge for our children. It is huge for us parents and huge for our much valued teaching staff.

Other initiatives include:

- From 2012, an additional 1000 children a year, aged 5 – 8, will receive specialist support from the Ministry of Education to ensure a successful transition from early childhood to school.
- By 2014, an additional 1100 children and young people will receive support through the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Schemes (ORRS).
- All schools are to demonstrate inclusive practice by 2014. This will be a performance target.
- By 2014, National Standards will incorporate ways to access, track and report on the learning and development of children and young people with special education needs.
- The Government will consider in July 2012, a proposal for the development of a new mediation and disputes resolution process for families and whanau needing support from the education system when times are tough.

PVI is grateful to all previous PVI parents who have campaigned for improvements over the last 20 years. PVI also thanks the Blind Sector that has worked collaboratively and tirelessly with us.

PVI acknowledges the work of the current MoE-Special Education staff and looks forward to working with the Ministry of Education to further implement the findings of the Review. The outcomes of this review are complementary to what the Sector and PVI were seeking. This is a fantastic outcome, and PVI applauds the MoE and Minister Hide for this allocation of special education funding which includes a sensory focus.

Paul Manning
Executive Officer
20th October 2010

Kevin Beaver
Chairperson
20th October 2010