

Development Project 'Responding to the Wilson Report 2011 – Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Stakeholder Update (4)

Monday 11th February, 2013

Introduction

Here is the latest information on the two-year Development Project 'Responding to the Wilson Report 2011 – Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children run by Practice Leader AoDC Mark Douglas. This is the fourth project update.

Key messages at 11th February 2013

- Advisers on Deaf Children will continue to be employed by the Ministry of Education.
- A draft National Statement of Direction has been developed in collaboration with the Deaf Education Centres.
- Comments on the draft National Statement of Direction have been received from stakeholders.
- Pilots to be trialled in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay Districts to explore the suggested re-definitions of roles and responsibilities as outlined in the draft National Statement of Direction.

Project background

- The AoDC Development Project is part of the Ministry of Education, Special Education's focus on developing and providing a good mix of services to achieve the best educational outcomes for deaf children and young people across New Zealand.
- The purpose of the project is to identify recommendations from the *Wilson Report – Review of the Role of the Adviser on Deaf Children, 2011* that will form the basis of an implementation strategy.
- The project's outcomes will complement the range of services and support currently available for deaf children and young people.

Project aims

- To clarify and differentiate between the Advisers on Deaf Children and Resource Teachers of the Deaf roles.
- To ensure that deaf education services are more consistent
- To explore a shift to service provision with an Early Years focus for AoDC.
- To clarify the AoDC role with school-aged children.
- To develop a framework of services that seamlessly links the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, early identification and the Ministry of Education's Early Years services.

The Development Project 'Responding to the Wilson Report 2011 – Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is underpinned by international best evidence on deaf education, findings from the Government's *Review of Special Education, 2010* and recommendations in the *Wilson Report – Review of the Role of the Adviser on Deaf Children, 2011*.

Project stakeholders

A range of people and organisations are central to and will continue to be consulted throughout this project.

They are New Zealand Federation for Deaf Children Inc., Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand, van Ash Deaf Education Centre, Kelston Deaf Education Centre, Northern Cochlear Implant Programme, Southern Cochlear Implant Programme, District Health Board Audiologists MoE, NZEI, NZ Association Advisers on Deaf Children.

Latest project outcomes (September to December)

- A draft National Statement of Direction has been developed in collaboration with the MoE and the Deaf Education Centres.
- The draft National Statement of Direction was sent out to stakeholders for comment.
- Initial meetings to develop a draft Framework for Collaboration between service providers have been undertaken.
- The MoE and Deaf Education Centres have been working collaboratively on the establishment of pilots to explore the suggested re-definitions of roles and responsibilities as outlined in the draft National Statement of Direction.

Next steps (January to May 2013)

- The establishment of two pilots to explore the suggested re-definitions of roles and responsibilities as outlined in the draft National Statement of Direction. – Two Districts out of sixteen Districts have been suggested for the pilots the Waikato and Hawkes Bay.
 - These Districts have been identified as they have had Universal Newborn Hearing Screening in place for a significant period of time.
 - It is intended that the Pilots commence at the beginning of Term Two 2013 and run for six months.
 - A communication will be sent to families in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay at the beginning of February 2013 to provide information on the Pilots.
- A six month snapshot of service provision in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay to be undertaken to inform the establishment of the pilots.
- The draft National Statement of Direction will remain in draft form and will be informed by pilots in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay.
- A draft Framework for Collaboration between service providers to be developed and sent out to service providers for comment.

Communication with stakeholders

The next stakeholder update (5) will be sent out in April 2013.

Contacts

Mark Douglas, Practice Leader AoDC, Ministry of Education

mark.douglas@minedu.govt.nz

Jo Davies, Practice Leader Early Intervention, Ministry of Education

jo.davies@minedu.govt.nz