



SOUTH AND EAST CHRISTCHURCH

Term 1, 2026 Newsletter

RTL B Cluster Vision: To ensure success for all ākonga through collaboration and inclusive education

He waka eke noa

RTL B Cluster Mission: We strengthen and empower kaiako to enhance educational outcomes

Values: Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Rangatiratanga & Kotahitanga

Te Paeroa Strategic Goals

Building Cultural Capabilities

High Quality Practice and Impact

Leadership Capability & Systems
for Sustainable Change

Kia ora koutou, Mālō e lelei, Halo olketa, Talofa lava, Taloha ni, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Namaste, Ni sa bula and warm Pacific greetings.

We would like to thank you for the continued warmth and hospitality you extend to our team within your school/kura. Our mahi is grounded in a deep commitment to working in partnership with you and alongside other agencies to strengthen our collective understanding and response to the learning needs of our young people and their whānau.

We value genuine, relational partnerships and remain dedicated to building the capability and confidence of the adults who support our mokopuna each day.

Overview:

- Staffing
- Liaison Roles, Allocation weeks and Operating Standards (mandates)
- Expansion of the Early Intervention Service & Changes to our Service
- National Satisfaction Survey
- New LSC & SENCo support
- Useful links

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome four new RTLB Practitioners to our team. Each brings valuable recent classroom and leadership experience and we appreciate the expertise they contribute to Te Paeroa.



We also farewell and congratulate Tirina Goldsmith who is joining Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu in Term 2. We wish her well on her next learning journey.



John Bangma

John continues to work alongside me within the cluster. As an experienced principal, he is available to contribute to conversations around learning support and broader systemic issues that influence outcomes for our learners. He is also connecting with principals across the cluster to gather feedback on the RTLB service.

Please feel welcome to reach out if you would value a visit from John, myself or both of us.
johnb@rtlb34.school.nz

Liaison Roles

You will have been advised of any updates to your RTLB Liaison. Wherever possible, we have prioritised continuity to maintain strong, established partnerships.

Across 2026–2027, we will be undertaking an internal review of the RTLB Liaison role. This work is focused on strengthening clarity, consistency and impact within our service. This review will not directly impact schools at this stage. Any future updates will be shared through your RTLB Liaison and upcoming newsletters.

Allocation Weeks: 2, 4, 6, 8 & 9 (Term 1 may have been slightly different due to the various school start dates)

As a result of our new **Ministry Operating Standards & Procedures**, we are now **mandated** with timeframes. All Requests for Support will now require your RTLB Liaison to meet with all kaiako on the consent form *kanohi ki te kanohi* to confirm partnership, readiness, capacity and ensure clarity of the request.

- RTLB Practitioner to have initial engagement with kura/kaiako within **5 days of allocation**
- A collaborative Tātai (plan) developed within **5 weeks**

These expectations are closely aligned to our current practice and designed to strengthen shared understanding, timely support and effective outcomes for mokopuna.

Expansion of the Early Intervention Service (MoE) & a change in our Service Provision

Our Board has now received a 2 year Funding Agreement (as we do every 2 years) from the Ministry of Education with a few notable changes. It now states:

- RTLB now supports mokopuna from **Year 2–10**
- **Early Intervention Service (EIS)** now supports mokopuna until **the end of Year 1**

2026 will be a **transition year**, and there may be some overlap while these changes are embedded.

What this means for schools:

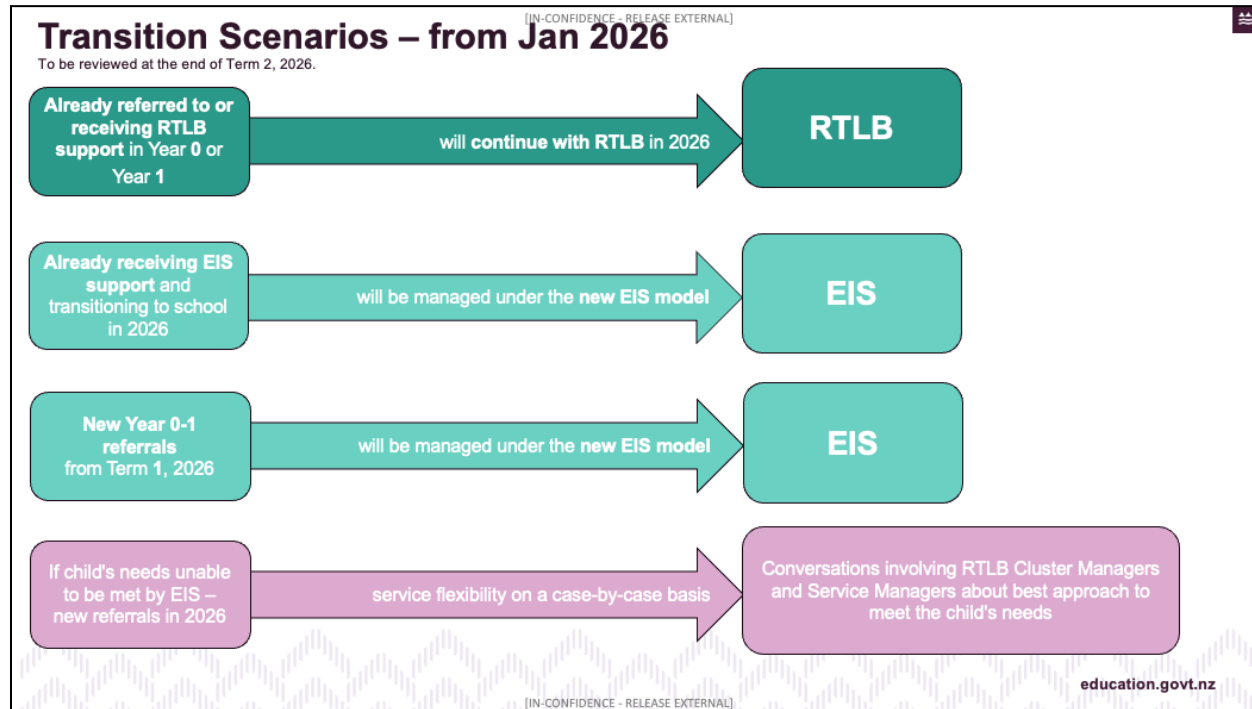
- Schools will access Ministry (EIS) support for mokopuna up to the end of Year 1
- The RTLB Service can support transition from the end of Year 1 into Year 2 and beyond

We will continue working closely with Ministry Service Managers to ensure a smooth transition. If you have any questions, please connect with your RTLB Liaison or Ministry Service Manager.

You can read more about the ministry **Early Intervention Service (EIS)** below:

[Learning support in the early years - Ministry of Education](#) (link)

[Flexible and integrated support – He Pikorua](#) (link)



Support for New LSCs & SENCOs

We are aware that many schools have new SENCOs and Learning Support Coordinators. These roles are a valuable addition to supporting mokopuna and their whānau.

We encourage schools to connect with us to support staff in these roles as they build confidence and capability. Our team is well positioned to provide guidance, coaching and practical support.

Please discuss this with your RTLB Liaison.

National Satisfaction Survey (below)

Thank you for your feedback in the National Satisfaction Survey. We were pleased to see a strong and positive response, highlighting:

- High levels of satisfaction with service delivery
- Strong partnerships with schools
- Effective collaborative problem solving

We also value the feedback identifying areas for growth. One key theme was a request for more accessible information and resources. In response, we have included a curated list of useful links below. Your feedback continues to shape and strengthen our service.

National RTLB Service Satisfaction Survey 2025

2340 National responses, from 1775 schools, a response rate of 73.5% of all 2414 schools/kura in Aotearoa

73 Cluster 34 responses, from 45 schools, a response rate of 75.0% of all 60 schools/kura in the cluster

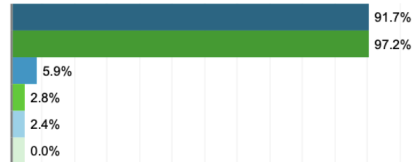


Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Performance - % agreeing that RTLB ...

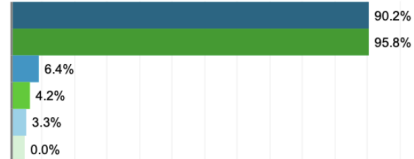
Working in partnership

RTLB listened and worked in partnership with educators, whānau, and other agencies involved. (n=2488, c=72)



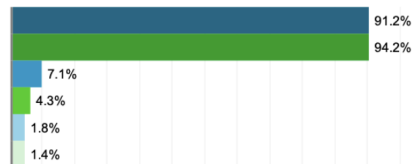
Collaborative problem solving

RTLB took a proactive, collaborative, solution focused (or problem-solving) approach while teaming up with kaiako and whānau. (n=2482, c=72)



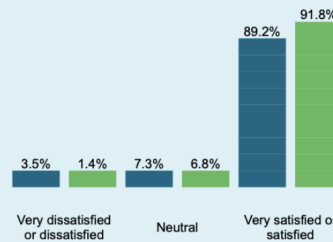
Identity, language, and culture

RTLB recognised identity, language, and culture as a source of strength when working with kura, kaiako, mokopuna, and whānau. (n=2430, c=69)



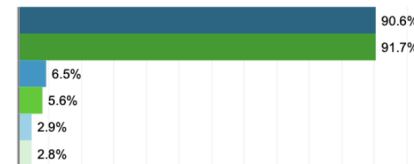
Overall satisfaction on 3 key indicators

Quality of service delivery n=2498, c=73



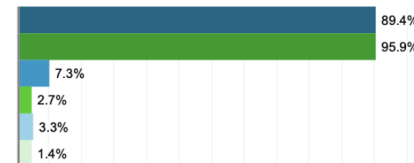
Flexible and tailored support

Individual circumstances were taken into account for flexible, tailored and responsive support. (n=2486, c=72)



Accountability

RTLB fulfilled their commitments as negotiated. (n=2481, c=73)

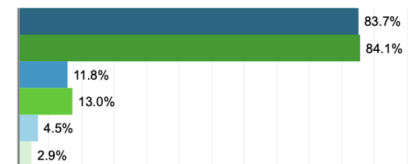


National ■ Strongly agree or agree ■ Neutral ■ Strongly disagree or disagree
Cluster 34 ■ Strongly agree or agree ■ Neutral ■ Strongly disagree or disagree

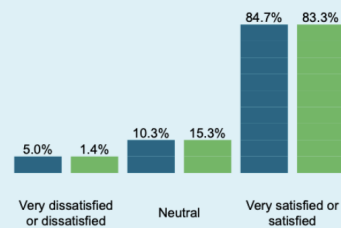
Outcomes - % agreeing that as a result of RTLB involvement...

Outcomes for mokopuna

Positive outcomes for mokopuna were achieved as a result of RTLB, educators and whānau working together. (n=2419, c=69)



Time it took to access services n=2475, c=72



Service engagement n=2502, c=73

Our team will engage with the RTLB service in the future as needs arise? n=2502, c=73



Compliments & Complaints

A reminder, if you have any concerns (or compliments) about our RTLB working in your school, please do not discuss this with other RTLB. This places them in a very uncomfortable position. Addressing any issues with the RTLB concerned would be the first step and then contacting me on clustermanager@rtlb34.school.nz if you feel it is not resolved.

Below are a selection of organisations and resources that may support your practice

Aspire Canterbury

A local service that supports individuals, whānau and schools. They are more than happy to connect to schools.

Their mission is to enhance the lives of disabled people and people with impairments by enabling community participation and maximum independence.

On the site you can find links to [disability support services](#) in Christchurch, useful information, and [mobility products](#) for purchase or hire.

Learning Needs Library - Christchurch

The Learning Needs Library hires out educational and therapeutic resources to assist with developing sensory, physical, cognitive, language and learning skills, to meet the needs of each individual.

Neurodiversity in Education Project

The Neurodiversity in Education Project is helping drive change towards a neuroinclusive education system in New Zealand.

Willow Corner - Christchurch

Willow Corner aim to better support children and young people by exploring and understanding each child's unique neurotype. While much of their work involves the diagnosis of developmental differences, this is done in a strengths-based way. They follow neurodiversity-affirming frameworks and are constantly upskilling our own knowledge of both assessment and intervention support to help children and young people thrive.

Grow Neuro - Autism/ADHD - Christchurch

Grow Neuro-Autism/ADHD are a Christchurch-based multidisciplinary neurodivergent affirming Autism/ADHD diagnostic and therapy support service.

Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) - Ross Greene

New Zealand - LIVES IN THE BALANCE

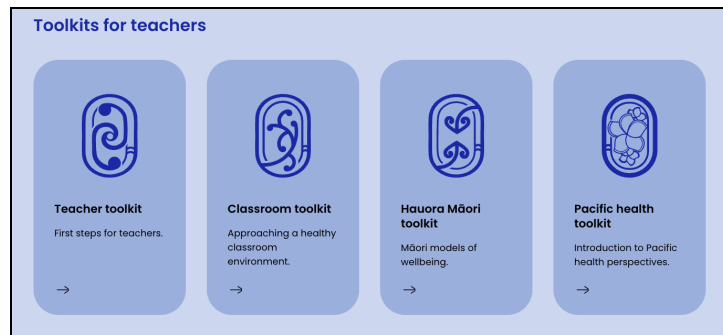
Lives in the Balance advocates for our most vulnerable kids and helps caregivers see them through more accurate, productive lenses and intervene in evidence-based ways that are

collaborative, proactive, non-punitive, non-exclusionary and effective. Including a FREE video for staff!

[2025 Te Whatu Kairangi Awardees » Ako Aotearoa \(Tertiary\)](#) - amazing small 4 minute videos for resources to demonstrate passion and inclusivity in the classroom. Great for teacher only days!

[Sensory Inclusive Schools](#)

It is a UK based initiative that aims to build staff capability and create learning environments where sensory differences are understood and accommodated so that all learners can participate, feel included and thrive. There are some useful resources that we can access. Some costs apply.



[Pūmau Website](#)

Kaimahi or Kaiārahi, but Pūmau has a wealth of culturally affirming and responsive resources for kaiako and kura, especially for our mokopuna Māori, Pacific and English Language Learners. The Teacher Toolkit offers practical ideas and strategies for supporting mokopuna wellbeing.

Noho ora mai rā/Leana hola

Michelle Maule

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[Te Paeroa website](#) (link)