



Aoraki Cluster 37 Newsletter Term 4 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa

I sincerely hope the end of year is going smoothly for everyone.

Thanks to those of you who filled in the National Satisfaction Survey that closed last week. I will do a deep dive into the feedback but on quick glance we are sitting above or in line with the national average for all the questions.

#### Strategic Planning 2026 -2028:

Our vision is that RTLB Cluster 37 is a valued, collaborative and inclusive service that strengthens kaiako practice and kura systems through strong partnerships and evidenced based approaches. We have been taking time to consider the feedback you gave the liaison RTLB around this vision to create our strategic plan. We did notice a few of you commented on RTLB liaison who are a good fit for your school. We will be focussed on this but with the intention of creating consistency so it is not the person but the role that is a good fit for your school. Once completed the strategic plan will be on our website.

#### Te Waharoa:

The feedback we have received on the change to our process has been overwhelmingly positive, with one of the benefits being that it has reduced the workload for SENCo and Teachers. We allocate cases within a week of a Te Waharoa hui. Prior to this the liaison RTLB will talk with your SENCo and teachers about what has already been done using our pre-request checklist as a guide.

#### Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS):

As a team we remain committed to promoting CPS as a way of listening to and engaging students in solving problems. We have teamed up with three schools to complete the coaching. In total nine teachers, one Principal and eight RTLB have undergone 6 coaching sessions each with Lives in the Balance to refine our skills of writing ASUPS and holding plan B conversations. If you have any teachers interested in honing their skills in CPS, coaching is an excellent option. The RTLB Service has committed to paying 50% of the costs for schools and this offer stands for 2026. Please contact me, or your liaison RTLB, if you are interested.

#### Professional Development:

We will begin 2026 by connecting with all the first and second year teachers. Keep an eye out for an email early in 2026 to forward to your provisionally registered teachers. We will also work alongside the MOE to provide PLD for LSCs and SENCo.

#### Building Upgrade:

The team is enjoying our accommodation at The Complex. It was certainly nice to be warm during winter when we were in the office. The wheels are slowly moving on the renovation of the OVH site and we will return there when it is completed, which will be late 2026 or 2027.



Staffing:

Jo Bennett has left the RTLB Service to take on the SENCo role at TGHS. This is a great fit for Jo - RTLB's loss is TGHS's gain. We are looking forward to Donnella Bagrie joining our team in 2026 and Claire Farr is extending her time from 0.4 to 0.7

MOE:

RTLB and MOE have internal processes for transferring cases from one service to the other. Therefore if you have an individual student request for support with RTLB and you believe it might be appropriate to transfer it to the MOE please speak with the RTLB caseworker so they can advise the appropriate process. This is more streamlined than putting in your own request to MOE.

You will no doubt be aware of the extension to the Early Intervention Service. This means that the Ministry will now be the point of contact for students in year 0 and 1. Our liaison RTLB will support your staff with remembering this and we are available in 2026 as a transition year to support the MOE where needed.

Website:

If you have not already checked out our website here is [the link](#). This is a great place to find out more about our service.

Funding:

This year our LSF income was \$82,121.72 and we have spent \$82,788.98. We have also used the equivalent of a full time teacher in banked staffing within 17 schools. This has been a mixture of release time and additional teachers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the schools who engage with our service and wish you all a well deserved break over the coming weeks. I look forward to reconnecting in 2026.

Ngā mihi nui  
Nikki Poulter  
Aoraki RTLB Cluster Manager