

30 March 2011, no. 4

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERS IN AE CENTRES - ADVICE TO SCHOOLS

Following their 2009 review of Alternative Education (AE) the Ministry of Education have made some changes to AE funding and staffing.

These will roll out over the next two years. Some of this funding increase will go towards provision of "pedagogical leaders" (PL) – a role developed in response to MOE and ERO concerns about learning outcomes for AE students.

Please find attached a copy of PPTA's advice to schools.

eDscapes

PPTA PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON, 18-20 APRIL – REGISTER NOW

eDscapes offers secondary teachers and other education professionals a mix of practice-based workshops and inspiring speakers, providing an excellent opportunity to meet and share experiences with colleagues.

Visit www.eenz.com/ppta11 for information about conference themes, keynote speakers and online registration – only \$150 for PPTA members.

BUDDY-UP WITH A CANTERBURY SCHOOL

Some Canterbury schools affected by the quake are still in dire need of resources.

You and your school can "buddy-up" with a school and provide them with resource packs of things they've been struggling to replace since the quake. Some staff from the inaccessible schools have lost all their resources as have some of those from sites less badly damaged.

These donations may include pens, printer paper, whiteboard markers and memory sticks with teaching resources etc.

To buddy-up with a Canterbury school email earthquake@ppta.org.nz.

CANTERBURY REGION ASSISTANCE FUND TOPS \$17,000

Thanks to your generosity in donating to PPTA's Canterbury Region Assistance Fund, over \$17,000 has been raised to assist our colleagues in schools affected by the quake. Naturally, the more support the better so keep the donations coming in where you're able.

Deposit funds directly to our BNZ account 02-0560-0450149-002.

RTL B TRANSITION PROCESS

The Ministry of Education is consulting with practitioner and principals' groups, and with PPTA and NZEI, about the shape of the new RTL B management structure that will be brought in from the beginning of 2012.

You can find updates on the transition process on the [Transforming the RTL B service page](#) of the Ministry's website.

The new structure means RTL B will be employed in larger clusters, of about 20 practitioners, with practice leaders and each cluster led by a manager. There is still a lot of work to be done as to how this will work for secondary RTL B. PPTA is committed to achieving a fair and reasonable outcome for our members.

If you have queries or comments about the transition process you can email us: piu@ppta.org.nz

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Pedagogical leaders in AE centres

Advice to schools

March 2011

Background

Following their 2009 review of Alternative Education (AE) the ministry of education (MOE) have made some [changes to AE funding and staffing](#). These will roll out over the next two years. Some of this funding increase will go towards provision of “pedagogical leaders” (PL) – a role developed in response to [MOE and ERO concerns about learning outcomes](#) for AE students.

In January, PPTA hosted a meeting to establish some shared understandings about the purpose of the PL role, along with some discussion about practical implications of this change. Representatives from the following groups attended: PPTA executive, SPC principals (urban and rural schools), AE Association, MOE, Teachers Council, Correspondence School, and the Office of the Children’s Commissioner.

What are pedagogical leaders?

MOE staff explained that pedagogical leaders will be appointed – either by managing schools, from existing staffing, or as new positions; or by AE providers using funding from their managing school – to advise and support AE tutors in programme planning and delivery, in writing and using individual education plans (IEPs) and to support assessment practices (although our meeting didn’t get as far as a discussion of NCEA). The pedagogical leaders are not intended to teach AE students directly (except on occasion to model practice to the tutors).

There is not enough new funding for every AE centre to have its own pedagogical leader. The MOE estimates that each AE student place will generate about two days FTTE per year for pedagogical leadership. This means that an AE centre with eight students will have an entitlement to access the equivalent of up to 16 days of pedagogical leadership across the whole year. It will be up to each centre to determine how this provision is used. For example, an AE centre might decide NOT to vest that funding in one person but, rather, to use it to buy in specific support from different people at different times, for different types of staff professional learning and development.

What’s in a name?

There were significant concerns expressed at the meeting that pedagogical “leader” is a misnomer and that the term “pedagogical support” better captures both the intent and reality of this initiative.

Who can be a pedagogical leader?

Pedagogical leaders must be fully registered teachers. This means that most will be employed by secondary schools. It is possible that some AE providers will want to employ their own PLs but it remains to be seen how they could do this over the long term given the requirement that PLs maintain full registration.

Alternatively, some schools/centres may decide to access staff from Te Kura, or School Support Services, to offer pedagogical leadership/support.

Managing schools, in particular, will need to remain alert to this requirement and ensure that the PL role is fulfilled – as per the MOE requirement – by fully registered teachers.

What does this mean for our school?

If you are a managing school, quite a bit. If you have concerns or queries about appointing staff to a PL position – or need advice about how best to use the funding (which may well be the case in smaller centres) PPTA and SPC are happy to offer advice. We can also facilitate contact with other managing schools facing similar issues. If your school has larger concerns or questions with regard to the AE funding or other changes – and in relation to pedagogical leadership in particular – please contact us. We are happy to help, including with larger questions needing answers or advice from MOE.

If yours is not an AE managing school these changes may not have much impact, at least in the short term. However, it is worth ensuring that you have up-to-date information from your local managing school, or local management committee (if there is one). The development of pedagogical leadership in AE may have ongoing implications for all secondary schools that refer students to AE. Part of the purpose of the PL is to promote closer relationships between schools and AE providers – particularly in relation to improving teaching programmes and learning and assessment outcomes for AE students.

While many AE providers do an excellent job supporting disengaged students, there is significant variation in centres' abilities to provide trained and qualified secondary teachers, and to help students gain relevant qualifications and/or re-engage in secondary or tertiary study or training.

MOE have promised to update the AE site on TKI, but as of March 2011 this had not happened.

Who can I contact?

- You can email PPTA for advice: sdalton@ppta.org.nz or, 04 913 4233 to speak to a PPTA advisory officer, or you can ring the SPC helpline and leave a message: 0800 4SECPC
- MOE contacts: www.tki.org.nz/e/community/alterned/contacts/