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**\*\*\*\*\* PRESS STATEMENT \*\*\*\*\***

## **Merger of the Deaf Education Centres Announced**

The Combined Board of Trustees for Kelston and van Asch Deaf Education Centres recently carried out extensive consultation regarding its proposal to merge the Centres forming one new national organisation. The majority of those who responded were in favour of the proposal, which was submitted to the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins for consideration.

The Minister has notified the Board the proposal has been accepted, and both DECs will merge with effect from 20 July 2020. The new merged organisation will initially be called “Deaf Education Aotearoa New Zealand”, and will include all the children enrolled at both the van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centres, and all of the services currently provided by each organisation.

Board Chair, Rachel Douglas has welcomed the Minister’s decision saying it heralds an exciting phase in Deaf Education and brings to fruition the Board’s aspirations for one national organisation.

“Our Mission, to ensure that our students learn in an environment where they: Belong, Grow, Excel and Choose, inspires and guides our work. The merger will allow us to harness and share the energy, expertise and resources of both DECs to provide a seamless nationwide service that is user-friendly and simple to navigate. It will prevent duplication, promote equity and ensure we are using our skills where they are most effective.”

Note:

Further information from the recent consultation and the Board’s charter is available at [www.deafeducation.nz](http://www.deafeducation.nz). Updates regarding the merge will also be posted on the website as they become available.

For further details contact:

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