

If you are the parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child over the age of 8yrs old, and part of the ASSIST programme, make sure you are registered to vote by contacting:-

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## What Next?

Nomination forms will be sent out to eligible voters in early May.

If there are more than 6 nominations for the 6 vacant positions, a vote will be required. In this case, eligible voters will have up to 6 votes and may vote for up to 3 parent representatives nominated in respect of the Kelston Deaf Education Centre and up to three parent representatives nominated in respect of the van Asch Deaf Education Centre. The 3 highest polling candidates in each Centre's area will be declared elected.

**The deadline for nominations to the Board of Trustees is:-**

**12 noon on 20th May 2016.**

COMBINED BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**PARENT ELECTIONS**  
**2016**





## What's going on?

Providing Deaf Education Services in New Zealand is the responsibility of two Centres serving the whole of the country. These are Kelston Deaf Education Centre (KDEC) and van Asch Deaf Education Centre (van Asch). Between them, they support close to 2,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing children nationwide. In 2012, the Ministry of Education combined the Trustee Boards of each Centre into a national Board providing unified governance and uniting the strengths of both. Having a combined Board increases opportunities for sharing skills, knowledge and resources and provides a national perspective for delivering services.

Every 3 years, a new Board of Trustees is elected, made up of six parent representatives, a staff trustee, 2 student trustees and the Principals of both Deaf Education Centres. During May 2016, nominations will be invited for the election of six new parent representatives to the Board.

## What does being a Trustee involve?

Being a Trustee on the Combined Board is an important position with the opportunity to influence the decisions and educational services for Deaf children nationally. The combined Board works closely with senior ministry officials and has access to accurate, current statistical and policy information.

The position carries much responsibility and requires commitment. As a board member you will be responsible for an annual budget of approximately \$30 million, a staff of around 400 and supporting the educational and social achievement of almost 2,000 children.

The ideal candidate will be someone who is committed to working within a group that is focused at a national level on developing and strengthening Deaf Education across all of New Zealand. You will need to be able to absorb large amounts of written information, understand and evaluate differing views and perspectives, and contribute to sound decision making.

Meetings are held 8 times per year, usually in Wellington. They are lengthy and usually run from around 9.30 am until 4.00pm so you must have the time and availability to devote to the role.

Travel expenses are covered and the current Board has decided that remuneration for attending meetings will be not less than \$120.00 per meeting.



## Who can be a Trustee?

To be eligible, candidates, must:-

- Be nominated by a parent on the voting roll
- Be over 18yrs old
- Be a Citizen of New Zealand
- Meet government eligibility criteria relating to character. (This will be explained in your nomination papers.)
- Not be an employee of either Deaf Education Centre

Who can nominate someone as candidate?

Anyone on the voting roll can make a nomination. The voting roll already includes all parents of students who are enrolled at or receiving services from either Deaf Education Centre. Parents of children over 8yrs old who are supported under the ASSIST programme are also eligible to vote.

If you feel you have the skills, time and commitment you can nominate yourself as a candidate but if you are not on the voting roll, you must be nominated by a parent who is.