

Issue 5

26th October 2017

AKA Network Review

Open letter to all Auckland Kindergarten Association Families



**AUCKLAND
KINDERGARTEN
ASSOCIATION**



Kia ora tātou

In February this year the Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) started a move to kindergartens offering the option of an additional hour each day and a year-round kindergarten experience. This was based on research that showed these changes were necessary for the AKA to continue to meet the needs of parents and their children and reflected changes made by other kindergarten associations around the country.

Thirty of our 107 kindergartens now offer the extended service.

AKA management and Board are committed to doing what we believe is the right and best thing for the sustainable future of the AKA. We have received wide ranging feedback from parents and staff on the move to extended hours and have decided to take a breather to assess whether the changes are having the positive impact that we believed would occur.

We will be engaging an independent reviewer to consider all aspects of the move to extended hours. This will include meeting with representative groups of parents, a review of the communications and consultation processes and the research presented in support of the change. The reviewer will meet with teachers and other AKA staff involved in the programme. The findings of the reviewer will be shared with parents and teachers, and the recommendations will be incorporated into our future planning. It is hoped that the independent review will take between 4-6 weeks and will begin shortly.

There will be no immediate change for families whose kindergartens have already had their hours of operation reviewed. There will be no further changes to operating hours for kindergartens until the review is complete and we have received feedback on the findings from parents and staff. We will update you on progress at the Association's AGM on 30 November and in December when the review is complete.

We thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact the Network Review team on networkreview@aka.org.nz.

(For families new to AKA, more information can be found at www.aka.org.nz/parents/change)

Ngā mihi mahana

Tanya Harvey
Chief Executive Officer

Simon Jones
Chairperson of the AKA Board