



Media information, 22 May 2017

MTLT funds new education priorities

Education grants of \$246,000 have been approved by the Masterton Trust Lands Trust under new funding priorities it set late last year together with the education community.

The grants are the first to be made as part of a three-year programme focused on five areas of importance to all levels of education in Masterton and the wider region. A further \$103,000 is available this year, bringing the trust's total annual education grants budget to \$349,000.

Masterton Trust Lands Trust chairperson, Leanne Southey, said it was exciting to be supporting a range of new teaching and learning initiatives that built on trust-funded professional development for teachers over the last 10 years.

"It has been great to see education leaders responding positively to the funding priorities they helped develop during last year's review of how we allocate funding for education and measure its impact.

"Schools in each of the early childhood, primary, secondary sectors are not only working collaboratively with each other, but are now working between sectors and with the wider community."

The early childhood, primary and secondary sectors each receive \$50,000 and roll-based grants to Masterton schools account for \$70,000 of this year's funding. Grants for special projects, hardship and school events were also made.

The secondary schools programme includes professional development for 200 teachers across 28 subjects and an extension programme for 200 students. A symposium on future-focussed learning will bring experts to Masterton on 6 June to work with 300 primary and secondary teachers.

Primary schools will use their grant for teacher professional development, a sports coordinator across all schools and support for beginning teachers.

Early childhood education receives funding for professional development for teachers, leadership development and transition of children to school.

Two projects to extend knowledge and skills through networking and collaboration between different levels of the education sector were supported.

Wairarapa Youth Education Training and Employment received \$16,700 to deliver the 'Licence to Work - Youth Employability Passport' programme into secondary schools. It will provide young people with 'work ready' skills and link employers with young people, their schools and tertiary providers.

The second collaborative project, the Nga Tama Toa leadership programme for 75 Māori boys from primary and secondary schools, began last month and received \$9,300.

Two special projects receive \$10,000 each - a teacher at Aratoi to deliver arts education to all schools through the Ngāti Kahungunu exhibition and a parent education programme run by the Ko Te Aroha Trust. Funding has so far been approved for three interschool events.

Funding yet to be granted this year includes support for UCOL and new scholarships in partnership with industry.

Ends

Background

Between 2006 and 2016, MTLT contributed about \$4.4 million to Masterton's education sector which equates to about 43 percent of total grants made.

Priorities for Masterton Trust Lands Trust education funding until 2019 were confirmed in December 2016 following a review of past funding and consultation with the education community.

Priority 1 – Early development

Funding for early development of children aged 0-5 years to strengthen their foundation for learning. Professional development for teachers, service and resource coordination, and engagement of specialists will address readiness of children starting school, early literacy, social development and support for families.

Priority 2 – Networking & collaboration

Extending the pool of education knowledge and skills through networking and collaboration between different levels of the education sector – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary.

Priority 3 – Future-focussed high-quality teaching, learning & assessment

Critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and leadership, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, effective oral and written communication, accessing and analysing information, and curiosity and imagination.

Priority 4: Identity, culture & language

Promoting a strong sense of identity, culture and language among Māori students through culturally responsive teaching.

Priority 5: Transition & pathways

Transition of students between levels of the education sector and on to training and employment will be funded through mentoring, cross-sector forums and parent education.