

Kia ora! Welcome to the August 2017 newsletter.

Actions for you:

- *Deadlines*
 - IIP reporting to Tracey by 31 January
- *Feedback*
 - Hauhake – please refer to the item below – 6 October
 - Sector Reference Groups – please refer to the item below – 6 October
- *SKIP*
 - For those of you with a SKIP contract, please ensure that you have sent your invoice through to Tracey for payment

Dates to remember:

- *17 October* - Managers meeting, Quality Hotel, Wellington
- *18 October* - Managers and Governors combined meeting, Quality Hotel, Wellington
- *30 November* – Statutory Declaration that the REAP has carried out both its Health and Safety and Child Protection Obligations
- *31 January* – 2017 IIP report to Tracey

Stuff you might be interested in:

Mid-Year Variance Reports:

Firstly, big thank you for getting your reports to Tracey on time. We are pleased to report that collectively we are on track to achieve, if not exceed, our contracted targets across all three sectors. Here are some statistics you might find interesting:

Early Childhood Education

All REAPs are on track to achieve the total contracted hours of 4,640 hours. As at the reporting date, 3,148.25 hours have been achieved which is 68% of the annual target. All REAPs have indicated that they will achieve or exceed their contracted hours.

A number of REAPs reported a decrease in the number of play centres. The issue of small numbers in isolated rural playgroups was raised by a number of REAPs with some reporting the closure of some playgroups due to low numbers.

Schools

All REAPs are on track to achieve the total contracted hours of 10,685 hours. As at the reporting date, 6,593.32 hours have been achieved which is 62% of the annual target. All REAPs have indicated that they will achieve or exceed their contracted hours.

Most REAPs report some level of involvement with local Communities of Learning. Teacher PLD was a consistent demand across most REAPs. Lack of change to funding levels were noted as a barrier to being able to meet all PLD requests.

Adult and Community Education

Most REAPs reported that they will achieve their contracted learner hours. A small number of REAPs have indicated that they may struggle to achieve contracted hours, however others have indicated that they will substantially exceed contracted hours. Overall REAPs have achieved 38,769.75 total learner hours which is 50% of the total contracted hours of 77,971.

Collectively REAPs have supported 3,584 or 79% of contracted learner numbers (4,537). There were a wide variety of issues/trends identified by REAPs. Many REAPs report an increase in Te Reo and Digital Literacy programmes.

Evaluation and Monitoring

As part of this reporting process REAPs were asked to report on how many learners in each sector have been evaluated and how they have rated their learning experience against three areas across each sector:

- Relevance of learning
- Learning objectives met/skills gained
- Learners reporting increased confidence

Collectively all REAPs reported between 95% and 100% of learners rated their learning experiences positively against the above three criteria. Not all REAPs consistently evaluated learning outcomes however many indicated that they will either implement some form of structured evaluation process or make improvements to their existing approaches.

The necessity for REAPs to undertake robust evaluation and monitoring activities is becoming increasingly important, especially in relation to our Investment Plan with the Ministry of Education. Further information about this is provided later in this update.

2018 Mix of Provision for ACE

Thank you for getting this information to Tracey by the due date. We are pleased to report that we were able to submit this to TEC ahead of the deadline!

Our funding allocation from TEC for 2018 remains unchanged from 2017 however we were able to request additional funding of around \$150k as a small number of REAPs indicated that they had the potential for increased volume. Not sure if we will get this but it's worth a crack.

During this process Tracey made a number of "interesting" observations. Some food for thought:

- There were **220** different programmes put forward by REAPs with a total value of \$2,364,967.80, 4,898 Learners and 78,016 Total Learner Hours.
- Our TEC allocation is \$2,362,541.00. Our Mix of Provision had to be adjusted to ensure it matched the allocation; 78,006 Total Learner Hours and 4,897 Learners.
- The shortest programme was **2** hours. The longest programme was **140** hours.
- **65%** of learners are in programmes that are for **18 hours** or less but this only equates to **40%** of Total Learner Hours.
- **64** programmes are **20 hours** or more and equate to **59%** of Total Learner Hours.

REAPANZ News and Activities:

2016 Financial Analysis

The Audit and Risk Committee have completed the 2016 Financial Analysis for REAPs. By now you and your Board Chairs would have received a letter regarding this.

October Meeting of REAPs

As per the reminders above, our collective meeting of member REAPs is happening in early October. The REAP Aotearoa Board has begun drafting an agenda for the combined day which should be circulated in the next month.

The aim is to provide a strategic update on the Board's progress with key items and workshop critical areas of development while we are together; Strategic communications, Treaty commitment, and national contracting come to mind (more detail on some of those below).

We are pleased to announce that Tim Fowler, Chief Executive, TEC and Paora Ammunson, Chief Adviser Maori, TEC, will be joining us on the Managers/Governors day. This will provide us with a great opportunity to hear from one of our major funders about the direction they are heading in and also enable us to showcase some of the fantastic work REAPs are doing around the country.

The next Investment Plan with the Ministry of Education (MoE)

We are about to enter into negotiations with the MoE for the next Investment Plan which should take us through until the end of 2020. The MoE wants us to have more of an outcomes focus; they want to know what difference has been made in our communities and who is better off. They want to see the new contract have "meaningful" targets.

The work we are collectively doing to evaluate and monitor our activities directly relates to what the MoE are talking about. We need to be able to demonstrate what difference we have made, how we know that we have made a difference and who is better off in our communities. Our take is that we will need to refine these processes even more so we can confidently report this to the MoE.

The REAP Aotearoa Contracts Group will be progressing our collective thinking on the national contract and getting Managers involved for input. A suggestion is to workshop the topic at the October Managers meeting so all are part of the discussion and get a feel for any shifts.

We expect to have IIP templates finalised for completion in November. We realise that this timeline is not ideal however we will be working hard to give you all as much lead in time as possible. **Watch this space!**

Hauhake

A request has come through from Hauhake for Managers to consider what assistance they may want from Hauhake in the future. This is part of developing collective thinking on REAPs' investment in Hauhake and what things (in addition to Hui a Tau) could help us take the next step in our shared commitment in this space. Again, the REAP Aotearoa Board sees the October meeting as a good space to engage in korero from all REAPs on moving this forward.

Action: Please email your thoughts and ideas on this to Tracey by 6 October and to be prepared to feed this back at the October Managers meeting.

Sector Reference Groups

The REAP Aotearoa Board is keen to know how the Sector Reference Groups are going; is there value in these groups, how often are they meeting (if at all) and where to from here.

Action: Please email your thoughts and ideas on this to Tracey by 6 October and to be prepared to feed this back at the October Managers meeting.

Communications Strategy

We are currently working on developing a Communications Strategy that will guide the activities of REAP Aotearoa. The communications strategy aims to:

- Ensure our brand is well known and is credible,
- Profile our approach and key issues to those who don't yet know about us,
- Influence current and potential partners to collaborate in our work with our communities, and
- Ensure consistency amongst REAPs and partners on our strategic messages.

Our Communications Strategy will consist of key messages about:

- our overall strategy and way of thinking,
- our special point of difference in education provision, and
- the issues we see in the rural sector that we can help to address.

This is still under development and we are working with communication experts to assist with the development of the strategy. Our intention is to socialise this further at our October meeting.

Board Phone Tree

Recently REAP Aotearoa Board members have been making contact with the REAP Board Chairs for a general catch up and opportunity to talk about what is top of mind for them. The phone calls were well received and there was general agreement that this should be an ongoing process.

Final words:

We would like to thank you for your support and patience through the transition from Sharon to Tracey. We are confident that we have things moving forward in a positive manner and look forward to catching up with you all at our October meeting.

Tracey is keen to get feedback about this newsletter; is it what you would be expecting to get, what other information do you want to see, etc. Please email your feedback to her at

director@reapanz.org.nz

Nga mihi nui

Mary-Jane Rivers, REAP Aotearoa Chair

Tracey Shepherd, Director of Development & Operations (Acting)