



## **Charter School Agency**

**27 November 2024**

### **Charter School announcement: Diversity in learning options key says head of CSA**

Diversity in education choices will help lift achievement levels, chief executive of the Charter School Agency Jane Lee said at the announcement of the first new charter school in Christchurch today.

Associate Minister for Education, David Seymour, announced this afternoon that Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki will be among the first new charter schools to open in 2025. This follows legislation being introduced in October that set out the framework on how charter schools will be set up, operate, and be monitored.

“I would like to welcome Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki to the charter school programme. I acknowledge sponsors Jo and Dave Jessep for their vision and the school’s CE, Rose McInerney, who is an experienced and passionate educator,” says Ms Lee.

“Today is an acknowledgement that diverse learning options have a place in our communities and a particularly big day for the Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki community.

“There has been a robust process to get to this point and I know there are families who are eagerly anticipating opening day in term one next year.

“There is a high bar for schools to succeed within the charter school model and we will be closely monitoring schools’ performance to ensure they are delivering on expectations.”

Chair of the independent Charter School Authorisation Board, Justine Mahon, says providing a diverse range of options was a key consideration for the Board in making its decisions about the first group of schools to open.

“We want to ensure charter schools are purposeful and offer young people and their families options for learning in environments which more closely and consistently meet their specific educational needs.

“The number, quality and diversity of applications received show the significant interest in this model and we’re looking forward to introducing more schools as funding allows,” she says.

Mrs McInerney said this announcement was a huge step towards bringing the school to fruition.

“We can’t wait to open our doors and bring a proven model of education to students and their families who are struggling with their learning. I feel so proud to be able to let our pre-enrolled students and families, and the wider community, know that we are going to be opening.

“This is the ultimate result for the community we will serve – including families who are moving cities to come to our school. Our goal is to help our students gain Mastery in maths and English so they can return to mainstream education when they are ready. We really can’t wait to get started.”

More announcements about charter schools to open will follow in the coming weeks. There will be a further application round next year. Applications from sponsors of schools which will not be among the first to open will also have an opportunity to be reconsidered.

### **Editors’ notes**

Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki is a co-educational academic intervention school for year one-eight students with academic distress or disengagement.

The charter school will be located in Hillsborough, Christchurch with a starting roll of approximately 50 students, and capacity to grow to approximately 210 at the current site.

Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki is a partner school of Mastery Schools Australia, which has opened five campuses since 2021.

See more information about Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki on their [website](#).