

# Writing frame: Developing a draft health education statement

A 'health education delivery statement' is a summary of health education in the school's curriculum. *Sexuality education: A guide for principals, boards of trustees* (page 32) states that the draft must **'describe how the school will implement the health education components of The New Zealand Curriculum.'**

It is usually no more than 1-2 paragraphs about what will be taught and how.

**This statement is mainly for parents.**

Use language with the parent community in mind, that can be translated when needed.

**It should reflect the school's curriculum, the national curriculum, and other education policy.**

There are aspects worth considering that require only 1-2 sentences.

- **Use key phrases from the school charter.** Health education should mirror the vision, principles, and values of the school charter and curriculum statement.
- **Provide the value and purpose of health education.** Position underlying concepts as 'big ideas' to give focus and purpose to the programme. Health education is more than health advice as a reaction to social issues. Show teacher accountability for learning, achievement and progress (not behavioural outcomes), and the pathway that health education offers, including NCEA. Show the benefit that health education may contribute to individuals and communities
- **Include the topics and themes taught.** Focus on how the programme develops to meet student needs and that teachers know what those needs are. Teachers plan individual lessons in response to learning needs, so that intended outcomes are achieved for the main topics or units. Delivery statements are usually accompanied by a 1-2-page overview of topics, themes or units for all levels. (See following section.)
- **Show how health education will be taught,** with all teacher expectations now framed by *'Our Code Our Standards: Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards for the Teaching Profession'*. This document provides useful phrases for health education. Mention the importance of students' critical thinking, and building meaning using health education ideas, rather than 'right and wrong'.
- Show how health education contributes to whole-school approaches that promote wellbeing. Mention any use of external providers, and why.

**Remember that this statement must align with the NZ curriculum and education policies.**

Community consultation helps to tailor student learning to reflect what they may have seen, heard, and experienced. However, communities do not have the right to demand content or delivery that goes against the NZC and other education policy. The consultation process is undertaken in good faith to generate feedback about the health education programme, but not to negotiate or agree to terms.

If feedback suggests the school is not doing enough in health education, and the community can show that the school should be offering more, a separate conversation should be started.

*For more information about writing a draft delivery statement and examples of these, visit <https://healtheducation.org.nz/resources/>*