Issues: Values and Principles

Education for learners who are blind or have low vision is strongly based on values and principles. Most learners in Aotearoa New Zealand who are blind or have low vision will receive support from BLENNZ. Specialist Teachers who work for BLENNZ are influenced by and may maintain membership in SPEVI.

Key areas discussed by SPEVI in providing services based on values and principles are:

* The need for principles and values to be held nationally. At BLENNZ this is being developed in the BLENNZ philosophy and mission statement and will be teased out in consequent statements of teaching practice.
* National standards against which service providers can measure the effectiveness of their programmes. BLENNZ has worked closely with Ministry throughout the Special Education Review to ensure commonality of understandings.

Areas of issues remain Access, Quality, Equity: inclusion, assessment, education planning, placement, services of Specialist Teacher Vision and Orientation and Mobility limited by low quantity of trained professionals, and partnership with parents.