# Operational Policy: Support for Ākonga in Cases of Illness (NAG 5)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

The Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) has ākonga attending the Homai Campus school and short and long term residential programmes. When ākonga become unwell this policy will ensure appropriate care so that the best interests of ākonga are served.

## Policy Requirements:

1. If ākonga become unwell while attending a BLENNZ school or long term residential services programme, and is deemed not well enough to remain, the ākonga’s teacher will advise their senior teacher who will contact parents/caregivers or, in the case of ākonga residing at Nikau Hostel, a residential staff member, to come and collect them.

2. When ākonga in Nikau Hostel become unwell and it is considered that they would not be fit to return to school for at least 24 hours (for a 5 day student) or three days (for a 7 day student) parents will be contacted at the Co-ordinator’s discretion. A decision will be made for the ākonga to either return home or go to other authorised and agreed caregivers until they are deemed well enough by a medical professional to return to school. A medical certificate, testifying to their fitness to return to school, is required in this instance. Travel costs to and from home will be at the expense of the Residential Services.

3. When parents cannot be contacted for immediate pick up the ākonga will be supported and monitored by a designated staff member in the most appropriate space.

4. If ākonga become unwell while attending a short term immersion course the course Coordinator will contact parents. The unwell ākonga will be isolated from other ākonga. If it is deemed they are not well enough to remain arrangements will be made for them to return home. Arrangements will be made for ākonga who require public transport such as flights to either return home with an RTV or for a parent to be flown to the course location to collect them and then to return home. Travel expenses will be met by Immersion.

5. In situations where the health status of the ākonga will be further compromised by travel home, alternative arrangements may be negotiated.

6. If the case becomes a medical emergency and the ākonga required immediate medical attention, an ambulance will be called. A staff member will be designated by the manager to accompany the ākonga until a parent/caregiver arrives.

## Supporting Documents:

[Ministry of Education website - Managing Child Illnesses in ECC Services](http://www.education.govt.nz/news/managing-child-illness-in-ece-services-and-kohanga-reo/)

[Hostel Licensing Regulations](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/hostel-regulations/)

Approved: 

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Next Review: 2025