



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President
Peter Gall

Papatoetoe High School

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President's Comment 26

Dear Colleagues

The news received early this week that planned industrial action by PPTA members was called off was welcomed, however there are aspects of the latest government offer which cause all of us considerable concern. Improvements to the working conditions for teachers are strongly supported but any such developments must have a corresponding increase in the staffing resource allocated to schools. As it stands, the proposed offer will place principals in a difficult situation and one that is potentially divisive as we have to meet and manage the conflicting demands of the Teachers' Collective Agreement, available staffing resource and the learning opportunities we wish to provide for our students.

What does 'reasonable endeavour' really mean and how will this be interpreted by our teachers? The 'endeavour to provide' an extra hour non-contact time per permanent unit can be interpreted in two ways – does this mean an extra hour non-contact on top of the current allowance for holders of MUs or does it refer to providing an extra hour of non-contact to holders of 4 MUs?

Placing limits on class sizes will be particularly problematic for those schools with year 7 and 8 classes and also for schools that have a growing junior school roll throughout the year. There will be concerns also around the future viability of some subject options and special programmes.

Quite clearly the government must provide additional staffing entitlement to allow for the proposed improvements to teacher conditions. I have raised my concerns with both the Minister and Secretary for Education. The number of calls I have received from our members on this issue indicates a high level of frustration and it would be appropriate to also pass on your thoughts and suggestions directly to the Minister.

Peter Gall
President