



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President
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President's Comment 4 2007

The New Zealand Teachers' Council has no Secondary School Representative.

Secondary School Principals are an important and unique part of the educational landscape of New Zealand. They ought to have direct representation on the New Zealand Teachers' Council. Although there is a Principal's seat on the Council, the sheer number of Primary-school Principals in this country means that it is unlikely that a secondary school Principal would ever capture sufficient votes to be elected. The legislation doesn't provide for separate representation for secondary school principals and the Minister is unlikely to be persuaded to change the law.

The New Zealand Teachers' Council has four Ministerial appointments. Recently the term of one of these positions expired, being the Chair of the Teachers' Council. The Minister appointed ex-Ministry Of Education official, Kathy Smith to that position. Whilst we have no angst with the person appointed, like other organisations we did find it disappointing that a former government official was appointed to Chair the Teachers Council at the very time we believe that the Council should be moving more and more towards being owned by the teaching profession. After all, the operating budget for the Council comes from the profession. Whilst disappointed for these reasons, it was further disappointing that in making a ministerial appointment our organisation was not consulted. The term of further ministerial appointments expires in the near future. We will be making representation to the Minister to appoint a secondary school principal in one of those places.

Footnote

In 2006 the Executive of SPANZ became really concerned with the random audit that the Teachers' Council was conducting. Essentially teachers who had applied to be registered were asked to give evidence of the support programme that schools had given them during their beginning teacher year and second year. SPANZ felt that this was a back-door way of auditing schools and that ERO had audit responsibilities. The Council are reviewing this process and have determined to suspend the random audit process in the mean time. If the Council is alerted to cases of provisional teachers failing to receive an appropriate advice and guidance programme, it will investigate the report.

Graham Young
President