



# SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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## President's Comment 12

Dear Colleagues

SPANZ is supporting an appeal of the judgement made by Hon Justice Keane in the Lynfield College case relating to suspensions and stand-downs. It is very apparent that the Ministry of Education supports the findings made by Justice Keane and will do what it sees as necessary to support the retention of the judgement as it assists in their goal of reducing suspension statistics.

There is a conflict that exists for us in our schools as on one hand we have to provide a safe environment for our students, yet, on the other, we are becoming more restricted in our ability to remove students who compromise that safe environment. The Ministry was quick to prepare guidelines to support the new requirements for suspension but doesn't appear to have a corresponding determination to adequately resource schools to assist us with those students who exhibit strong anti-social behaviour patterns

The media is also very quick to pick up on stories where student safety concerns are raised and their approach is almost always anti-school and this adds to the conflict that Principals face.

The appeal of Justice Keane's judgement is progressing but the wheels of the justice system turn rather slowly – we will keep you informed of developments as they happen.

**Peter Gall**  
**SPANZ President**