



# SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

## Secretariat Address

P O Box 11541, Ellerslie Auckland 1542  
Phone: 09 571 2233; Fax: 09 571 2244  
Email: [office@spanz.school.nz](mailto:office@spanz.school.nz)



**President**  
Graham Young  
Tauranga Boys' College

## President's Comment 21

### Meeting with New Zealand Teachers Council

The Executive met with Director and Chair of the New Zealand Teachers Council on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, Dr. Peter Lind and Joanna Beresford. The following significant issues were discussed.

1. Random sampling of year one and two teachers in regard to completion of documentation for registration
2. Graduating standards for teachers
3. Registration for itinerant music teachers and counselors
4. IELTS exams
5. No published decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal
6. No feedback to the teaching profession on the work of the Complaints Assessment Committee (we understand the cases can't be reported but there is no statistical information)
7. No representation for secondary school Principals around the Council table
8. Mandatory reports to the Council and delays in investigation including notification to schools about the risk of employing these teachers

The summary of the discussion is recorded below:-

1. Random sampling of up to 10% of year one and two teachers takes place in order to test the efficiency and robustness of the 'system'. This sampling policy was established under the former Teacher Registration Board (TRB) and permitted by law under the Education Standards Act now incorporated in the Education Act 1989.

The position of SPANZ while acknowledging that some schools do not follow 'due process' in registration and do not give adequate support to year 1 and 2 teachers, this is simply another audit of a school. It seems to us that ERO which has a specific audit function could be delegated this task by NZTC saving them and secondary schools time and energy.

2. The NZTC has a draft document on graduating standards which has been well researched and we have made submissions on your behalf.

It is our view that graduating students should meet exacting standards so that they are well prepared for the vigours of the classroom. Regrettably this has not been the case with many students. It also raises issues about the entry standards to teacher education providers and the robustness of their programmes.

3. NZTC acknowledges there are major issues to be resolved for itinerant music teachers and guidance counsellors in gaining and maintaining registration. NZTC has formed a working party to examine the issues and will seek feedback from SPANZ.
4. The IELTS exams for English language proficiency are a universally recognised standard for testing. NZTC does however provide exceptions, particularly where the teacher training and tertiary education was in the English medium. If you believe a teacher should be exempt, contact the NZTC.
5. SPANZ supports the NZTC proposal to publish decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal. This will create transparency in decision making and give useful precedents to those acting on behalf of teachers.
6. The NZTC has undertaken to explore reporting in a statistical manner the work of the Complaints Assessment Committee without reporting the actual decisions. This would be welcomed by SPANZ.
7. SPANZ strongly believes it is entitled to representation on the NZTC as secondary Principals form a vital and unique part of the educational landscape in New Zealand.

It is pleasing to note that the NZTC will be conducting an independent review of its performance and composition. We hope to make submissions on the issue of our representation.

8. The NZTC has undertaken to examine our concern in delays in investigation when mandatory reports are lodged and the lack of notification to schools about the risks of employing those teachers.

In summary the meeting was cordial with a frank exchange of views. It is pleasing to have open dialogue with the Council.

The NZTC has made significant process in recent years which we applaud. SPANZ does however firmly believe that the NZTC should cease to be a Crown Entity and become an independent body owned by and for teachers. Only when this happens will it have true credibility with the education sector.



Graham Young  
**President**  
**Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand**