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President's Comment 25

Dear Colleagues

The newly announced Kiwisport initiative prompted many of us to calculate our 2010 allocation once it was realised that this was not new money but rather a redistribution of existing funds. Many principals that have contacted me initially thought the new allocation was additional to their Sportfit funding and then had their hopes dashed. Lower decile schools are the losers under this new policy and there is no guarantee that they will receive sufficient funds from the regional partnership fund to make up the shortfall.

On one hand, under this initiative, the government is providing direct funding for schools with few strings attached and then on the other they have established a new contestable fund (the regional partnership fund) administered by regional sports' trusts, which no doubt will include application and reporting compliances. My argument is that if they trust us with the total amount, I am certain that schools would ensure that the funds would be used for the intended purpose better than a third party and that a greater proportion would reach the target audience.

I have written to the Minister of Sport asking several questions including:

1. Can he give an absolute guarantee that no secondary school will receive less funding under the new scheme? (He implied this on TV One news.)
2. How much of the regional partnership fund would he expect to be consumed by the bureaucracy of the regional sports' trusts?
3. Why were Principal Associations not consulted on the development of this new initiative?

I will provide details of the Minister's response as soon as I receive it.

Thank you to the Principals that supported the annual SPANZ PA's Conference held this year in Hamilton. I am sure your PA enjoyed the professional development provided, the opportunity to network and to tell stories about us.

Peter Gall
President