



Michael Williams, President

President's Comment 1

4 May 2017

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to Term Two! I'd firstly like to start by acknowledging all the hardwork and dedication of Sandy Pasley as an Executive member of SPANZ and lastly as President the last two years. We are most grateful for all you have done.

Pre-Budget Announcement

By now you will have seen the details of the extra Education funding within the Social Investment Package and the new Public Service Targets.

While none of the extra funding is explicitly targeted at secondary education, we will undoubtedly benefit from the 'downstream' impacts of more interventions in severe behavioural problems, more spending to address social issues that seriously constraint our work and extra support for early Language acquisition.

The new Public Service Targets will also be to our advantage with students arriving at our schools with higher levels of Mathematics and Literacy.

New Minister

We sent our congratulations to Minister Nikki Kaye on her appointment as the Minister of Education. She has clearly signaled how she wishes to work with the sector; a supportive speech at the Top Scholars Awards and she went out of her way to meet with the sector leaders this week to brief us on the Prime Minister's speech with the pre-budget funding announcement.

While commending her and the Government on the targeted additional funding, I have indicated we are keen to see the Government address the big issues: funding schools the total cost of delivering a 21st century education, the funding and staffing formula, infrastructure and teacher shortage.

I am confident we can work collaboratively with the Minister in addressing the challenging issues in Education.

Communities of Learning – Toolkit

There is a new information resource pack on Communities of Learning coming out. It was being promoted at the cross-sector forums. It is already online under cross sector forum Communities of Learning toolkit all schools eventually get a hard copy and links to the outline: <https://kahuiako.education.govt.nz/> & <http://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/col/CSF-toolkit.pdf>

Communities of Learning – Within School Roles

There has been a potential problem identified in that some of these positions are required to be permanent under the STCA but if a school withdraws from the CoL who funds the redundancy?

After a protracted battle it now appears the MOE has agreed to pay any redundancy costs if a school for whatever reason pulls out of COL. On this basis Principals can now appoint permanent within school positions in accordance with the Secondary Teachers Collective Agreement.

New Zealand Council for Educational Research Electoral College

Last year the NZCER Act was updated to enhance the flexibility and independence of NZCER. They are pleased with the revisions and are now required to submit the new Rules for the Conduct of the Election of Members. These have been submitted to Parliament for approval in April. Please refer to letter attached for further information.

Bullying-Free New Zealand Week

Attached is a flyer about the 2017 Bullying-Free NZ Week. The 2017 School Activity Pack is now available for downloading from www.bullyingfree.nz

2017 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

Nominations are open for ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards, I would encourage you to take the opportunity to acknowledge your great teachers.

The awards give communities the opportunity to formally thank their hard-working, inspirational teachers, principals and directors in early childhood, primary and secondary school education.

To request the free promotional kit for your library, visit www.asg.co.nz/neita or email neita@asg.co.nz. Nominations for the awards close on 22 June 2017. To nominate go to: www.asg.co.nz/nominate.

SPANZ Conference

This year's Conference, celebrating our 30th Anniversary in Wellington was a great success and we thank you for joining us in making it so. Please contact the SPANZ office if you would like a copy of Judge Becroft's or Johnny O'Donnell's presentation.

Nga mihi

Michael Williams, President