



Michael Williams  
President

Dear Colleagues,

Your Executive had a very busy meeting on the last week of the term. There is a tremendous amount happening currently and the Executive are very busy representing you on a significant number of working groups.

At our meeting we were also able to get quality facetime with senior staff from the Ministry of Education, Education Council and NZQA and we also got an opportunity to meet with the Minister. These were all crucial in giving us the opportunity to discuss the major issues and new initiatives as well raising our concerns around implementation.

The major issues on our radar currently are:

## CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE

It is great that the Minister has acknowledged that there is a problem. When we met with her on Tuesday 4 July, she was well aware of the concerns that we raised, understands the importance of getting the structure right in the background as well as the immediacy of the current shortage and is open to suggestions on how we might address the problem.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The new system is slowly starting to settle in but there are ongoing implementation hiccups and now we have been told that it will be moving to the Education Council, so a lot of work will be involved in advising on the transfer.

## THE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Three major areas of work:

There is the traditional work around teacher's registration, code of conduct etc a lot happening in this space with the digital renewal of practicing certificates and modernising of systems along with new the code of conduct.

A significant amount of work going on in the leadership space, Francis Nelson has been seconded two days a week to work on this. Unfortunately communication has not been good with SPANZ but this has been addressed and we look to be more actively engaged in this space.

Professional Learning and Development, we now know that the Education Council is taking over from the Ministry.

Following the Leadership Strategy Work Forum earlier in the year, the Education Council have been working on the leadership strategy. You can find their work here – <https://educationcouncil.org.nz/content/leadership-strategy>

## ERO

Concerns have been raised around the new focus that ERO is using and how that translates into Secondary Schools, also concerns around the new style of reports being used. We will be working with Nicholas Pole and his team to look at these concerns.

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM

While it is good to see this work happening there are concerns about communication particularly that it is not a new curriculum area, simply an update of the technology curriculum. We have raised concerns also around staffing, upskilling the workforce and obviously equity issues.

## LEARNING PROGRESSIONS FRAMEWORK

Over the last few meetings, in discussion with the Ministry we have become more aware of resources available for the learning progressions framework and the PaCT tool. These can be used up to Year 10 and could provide an excellent opportunity for excellent resources for moderation against curriculum levels in Years 9 and 10.

Attached to the President's Comment is a one page flyer which advertises the support that is available outside the PLD framework for schools who would like

to investigate and implement the learning progressions framework and use the PaCT tool.

I would strongly recommend that you delegate some staff to investigate this area of work. It has long been a challenge for Secondary Schools to find exemplars on the curriculum levels and we have been left to reinvent the wheel ourselves in isolation. This appears to provide the resources that we needed quite some time ago.

## IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

The Education Amendment Act that came into effect on 19 May 2017:

- bans the use of seclusion in all schools.
- limits the use of physical restraint by teachers and authorised staff members in schools to situations where:
  1. They have reasonable grounds to believe that there is an imminent and serious risk to the safety of a student or any other person, and
  2. The restraint used is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

The legislation will require schools to report on the use of Physical Restraint to the Ministry of Education.

Support for Schools:

- Physical Restraint Guidelines are being developed and are on the way.
- Schools will be able to access whole-staff training for "Understanding Behaviour and Responding Safely".
- Schools will also be able to access individualised "Managing Actual and Potential Aggression" training to support staff in working with identified high risk students.

This support can be accessed from your local Ministry of Education office.

## WELLBEING AT SCHOOL SURVEY

The NZCER Wellbeing at School Survey will be **free** for schools' from 1st July.

For further information please refer to their website: <https://www.wellbeingatschool.org.nz/>

## PB4L

The PB4L Conference is coming up, 28-29 August at SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland. For further information please refer to their website: <http://www.pb4lconference.co.nz/>

## KOREAN STUDIES WORKSHOP

06-14 October (excludes travel time)

The Korean Studies Workshop presents a unique professional learning opportunity, with participants immersed in new and different cultural contexts. Each day of the program is an opportunity to engage in a facilitated process of experiential learning (action) and reflection. Applications close Friday 28 July.

For more information: <http://www.asianz.org.nz/content/korean-studies-workshop>

## SPANZ CONFERENCE

The 2018 Principal Conference will be held at Rydges Lakeland Resort, Queenstown. Sunday 18th March - Wednesday 21st March.

We have secured a discounted accommodation rate at the Resort for our Conference attendees.

To access this rate please follow the link for bookings\*: <https://www.rydges.com/private-page/spanz-2018/>

*\*Subject to availability at time of booking, open till 15th January 2018.*

## UNION RATIFICATION

Our Union members will have received an email asking for your ratification around an amendment to the Collective Agreement. A reminder your response is due by Wednesday 26th July.

Nga mihi

Michael Williams,  
President

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