



**Sandy Pasley**  
SPANZ President

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Dear Colleagues

### **The Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (The Education Council)**

Recently I attended the first meeting the Education Council has had with Sector Groups. This new body is in its infancy and your Executive are concerned to ensure that the interests of Principals and teachers and ultimately learning will be at the forefront of their decision making.

To that end I have written to members of the Council expressing our expectations.

This letter is attached for your information.

The other attachment is an article from NZ Principal (September edition) written by Professor John O'Neill, Director of the Institute of Education at Massey University. I draw your attention to this article as I believe it expresses many of the concerns Principals have raised in various forums.

As a profession it is, I believe paramount that there is a Professional Body that sets out to

*.... champion good teaching practice and help raise the status and image of the teaching profession. We want to help attract the best and the brightest to teaching – and keep them there for longer.*

And to be

*..... independent so we have a stronger voice in education policy making. We can set our own agenda, commission our own research, lead public discussion about teaching issues, and take a position on all education matters. We will:*

- *Decide our own strategic direction in consultation with teachers, the Government and the public*
- *Develop a Code of Conduct for teachers, in consultation with the profession*
- *Audit at least 10% of appraisals for teacher practising certificates issued each year to ensure consistently high standards of teaching*
- *Act on concerns about teacher conduct without relying on a third party complaint*

<http://www.educationcouncil.org.nz/content/about-education-council>

It will be a matter of 'watch this space' to see whether the Education Council fulfils the very worthy outcomes set out above.

Nāga mihi

Sandy Pasley  
**President**

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