

President's Comment 14



Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

19 November 2015

Dear Colleagues

Your Executive met over two days last week. During our time in Wellington we met with the Minister of Education, Secretary for Education and Deputy Secretaries with various portfolios. There was discussion on a number of issues including the Health and Safety Act and Principal's liability under this new Act.

I understand that the Ministry of Education has corresponded with schools and the New Zealand School Trustees Association will have Health and Safety guidelines and templates available to schools in the New Year.

Other issues discussed with the Ministry included:

Review of the Education Act – you are encouraged to make a submission before December 14

Innovative Learning Environments – The Ministry is working towards flexibility and future proofing. We put forward the need for research around the new model for school buildings in relation to student achievement.

School Fees and the consequences of the Ombudsman's Report for schools.

Clarification about student achievement being linked to school resourcing

Teacher Supply – Concerns about the shortage of teachers in certain subject areas and in some geographical regions.

Patrick Walsh and I also met with the New Zealand Police at their national office, to discuss recent events involving students and the misuse of social media. From this meeting it was agreed that SPANZ and NZ Police develop a Memorandum of Understanding. NZ Police also asked for access to the SPANZ membership email contacts to advise our members of your local District Commander's contact details. In the event that a difficult situation arises you will be able to contact them directly in the first instance. If you would rather not share your contact details with the Police just send Ros an email and she will remove you from the list.

When one of our Executive members examined their recently released school leaver data they noticed an anomaly between the number of Māori students on ENROL and the number on their SMS. It would seem that ENROL has recorded student's ethnicity when they first started school. It may pay you to check that the ethnicity on your SMS and ethnicity according to ENROL are one and the same.

We have just been advised by the Teachers Council that they are now processing teacher registrations without payment as negotiated in the Secondary Teachers' Collective terms and conditions. However Principals need to advise the Council if the teacher applying is employed in their school. Those that are not currently employed in a school are not covered by the Collective terms and conditions and will have to pay individually.

Nga mihi

Sandy Pasley
President

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