



President's Comment 24

Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

27 July 2016

Dear Colleagues

Warm welcome back to school for the start of term three. Hopefully the rain is soaking into your school fields and not making life too difficult for your sports teams and those who have to wash the playing gear.

Itinerant Music Teachers and Relief Teachers

The Education Council recently advised SPANZ that they *want to address an issue with itinerant music teachers and relief teachers, and the role of the Teacher Education Refresh programme.....* and have invited SPANZ to be part of a group working with the Education Council to look at the issues and to work on possible solutions to

- Teacher Education Refresh Programme (designed to assist teachers who have had a provision practising certificate for more than six years) to ensure that the policy is flexible

They would also like to make contact with itinerant music teachers and relief teachers who hold a provisional practising certificate feedback@educationcouncil.org.nz.

We would appreciate it if you can pass this message on to these people in your networks.

Executive Meeting Update

Your Executive are meeting in Wellington on the 22nd and 23rd August.

I mentioned in a previous Comment that we had arranged meetings with the Minister of Education, Hekia Parata, the Associate Minister of Education Nikki Kaye, the then Secretary for Education Peter Hughes and the Deputy CEO of NZQA, Kristine Kilkelly.

The meeting with Nikki Kaye did not happen as there were flight delays out of Auckland, however we have been fortunate to be able to reschedule with her for August.

As mentioned previously teacher supply was a major topic for discussion and my understanding was that a report outlining the initiatives the Ministry is pursuing was to go to the Minister shortly after the June Executive meeting. To date, there has been no announcement made. We will follow up on this and any other matters you would like to raise with the Acting Secretary at the August meeting.

As an aside, the Ministry has limited data on teacher qualifications, current teachers and the subjects they are teaching (as not all of our teaching staff qualified in a particular subject teach that subject) as there is no designated receptacle for this data. This is needed as an important step forward to ensure adequate teacher supply.

The June SPANZ meeting with NZQA's Deputy Secretary covered a range of issues including the Online Assessment model which NZQA are looking to trial this year and again in 2017. The ongoing issue of workload was also discussed and I can report that NZQA is very aware of the issues for teachers and are working with groups to mitigate where they can.

International Students

Also mentioned in the last Comment was the recent decision in regard to a school's responsibility for International Students and that Executive Patrick Walsh was meeting with the Acting Secretary to discuss guidelines for schools.

At this meeting Patrick outlined to the Ministry the concerns for schools with international students. The outcome from this initial meeting was that a group of Principals would work with the Ministry, their legal team and NZQA to formulate guidelines for schools.

All the best for the term ahead.

Nga mihi

Sandy Pasley

President

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