



Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

President's Comment 26

8 September 2016

Dear Colleagues

Firstly, I would like to offer our good wishes to the Associate Minister of Education Nikki Kaye as she faces the health challenges ahead of her.

In my most recent Comment I talked about the introduction of COOLS into the New Zealand education landscape. This was in no way meant to criticise those of you who are delivering achievement challenges for the students in your schools via an online learning mechanism. Rather it was to highlight the concerns about the introduction of an alternative to traditional schools as we know them. All of us are committed to providing the best education opportunities we can for the students in our schools within the constraints of our budgets.

Communities of Learning Survey

Thank you for the feedback that you gave us recently around COLs. Please see survey results attached.

The concept of close collaboration with contributing schools is a very good one. One of the recognised points where student progression can regress is when students transition from one school to another. If this can be minimised, it would be helpful for student progress. Having greater knowledge of the background of students entering our schools, will assist in making transitions smoother.

Concerns expressed to me around the COL concept are:

- The time taken to get COLs started.
- The employment issues around appointing staff across COLs and internally to help with professional learning within the school. These employment issues are because of difficulties with maintaining appropriate relativity and job scope when compared with senior faculty managers (roles within schools have to be given to teachers with 2MU or less). Also the difficulty of replacing staff appointed to these roles in a time of shortage in certain subjects and areas.
- The leadership of COLs and the inflexibility around the appointment of the leader. (Money not able to be used to distribute leadership or be used for expert advice.)

The concept of COLs is a "work in progress" and my hope is that the sector will be able to influence positive change as they roll out.

Workforce Planning, Teacher Supply and Policy Developments

Yesterday I received a letter from Lisa Rogers, Deputy Secretary Early Learning and Student Achievement. The Ministry is establishing a biannual meeting "with key stakeholders to discuss workforce planning, teacher supply and policy developments that could impact workforce supply and demand." These meetings are "to co-ordinate a system-wide, multi-agency workforce response that addresses the needs of current and future learners." In addition, the meetings will look at the content of the whole career pathway, from attraction to teaching through to retention and career end. SPANZ has been invited to attend and we are delighted with this Ministry initiative.

On another note, we were sad to hear that Lisa Rodgers, Deputy Secretary, Early Learning and Student Achievement is leaving the Ministry on 14 October. She has been appointed as Chief Executive of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), based in Melbourne. She has made a significant contribution in her ten years at the Ministry of Education. We have appreciated her approachability, problem solving focus and leadership. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new position.

Physical Restraint and Seclusion Guidelines

Patrick Walsh represents SPANZ on this group and has been involved in the writing of guidelines to give advice to schools. On Patrick's recommendation, SPANZ recently withdrew our support for these guidelines as the legislation wasn't in place to support action recommended in the guidelines. We have subsequently heard that the Ministry will postpone the publication of the guidelines to consider the option of legislation in support. We are happy to hear this.

Nga mihi

Sandy Pasley

President

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