

President's Comment 3



Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

30 April 2015

Kia ora Colleagues

Welcome back to Term 2, I trust the term started well for you and the recent cold blasts have not seen your staff room and classrooms depleted with early colds.

Our thoughts are with the St Margaret's College community as they await the safe arrival of their students back from Nepal having experienced a very dramatic time during their World Challenge expedition.

Time Out and Restraint Practices Advisory Group

SPANZ has been invited to participate in an Advisory Group the Ministry of Education is establishing to provide guidance to schools about time out and restraint practices and received the following explanatory notes with the invitation. SPANZ representation on this Advisory Group would benefit hearing from you about what you have found works well in your school conversely practice that does not have a positive result. Email ros@spanz.school.nz

Thank you

Why is an advisory group being formed?

Time out and restraint practices are currently used in schools. The Ministry wants schools to feel confident they have the information and knowledge to manage challenging behaviour in an appropriate way. A recent complaint by a parent highlighted the poor practice that may be occurring. Schools and parents have, on occasion, asked the Ministry for advice in this area.

The Ministry is contracting a suitably qualified person to write a best practice guidance resource for schools about the use of time out and restraint. The purpose of the advisory group is to support this work and ensure it meets the needs of schools and is consistent with the approach being taken by other agencies.

What will being on the advisory group involve?

The advisory group will be made up of education leaders and agency representatives. Members will bring education experience and over-arching knowledge of service provision to support the strategic, high level, thinking required, or have concerns about the development of effective practice.

We have planned, at this stage for two face to face meetings before 30 June, and will require feedback on progress outside of those meetings. An initial meeting is planned for the 4 June, and a second meeting for later that month. Prior to the first meeting the Ministry will have commissioned an initial high level approach to developing the guidelines and commissioned the gathering of key information that will inform the guidelines development. In other words we will commission a start on the work, and seek the advisory groups feedback on that initial work at the first meeting rather than wait until after the first meeting to get started.

The advisory group:

- *Approves the terms of reference on the use of time out and restraint in schools.*
- *Provides expert advice to the contractor and the Ministry.*
- *Manages internal and external communications collaboratively with the Ministry.*
- *Considers drafts of the time out and restraint document from the contractor and provides feedback.*
- *Provides feedback on drafts of the time out and restraint guidance document and relevant issues.*
- *Ensures the time out and restraint document is fit for use in all school settings – primary, secondary, special schools, residential schools and importantly consistent with legislation and best practice.*
- *Makes a recommendation to the Ministry that the final version of the document be approved.*

NCEA Independent Review

In late 2014, an independent review was conducted focussing on the effectiveness of the enhancements to NCEA processes that NZQA implemented from 2007. The enhancements were aimed at increasing student motivation, moderation of internal assessment, the consistency of results and transparency.

The Independent Review is attached for your reading.

Please remember to be in touch with us at the SPANZ office or by emailing an Executive member if we can help you in any way.

Nāga mihi

Sandy Pasley
President

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