



Michael Williams  
President

Dear Colleagues,

While acknowledging it is a difficult time for the new government and our new Minister, there is an urgent need for action on the staffing issue.

We have been promised a package of initiatives to deal with the issue before Christmas but we need it now!

The absence of any detail about the future of current initiatives and just how the government will put its election manifesto and the coalition agreement into practice is creating real uncertainty in the sector.

Unfortunately the Minister was too busy to see us when we were in Wellington for our recent Executive Meeting, however we are working with his office to find a time when I can meet with him to discuss the way forward and offer our assistance. Invariably change is coming and we are keen to work with the Minister to ensure that new initiatives 'land' well, are workable, that unintended consequences are minimized and most importantly they deliver improved outcomes for our students and communities.

The Education Council has been working for much of the year consulting on an Educational Leadership Strategy for New Zealand that will provide direction for the sector and inform an investment strategy for the Council. The strategy has been written and will be released to the sector for consultation shortly. This will be a critical document for framing leadership in our profession of the years to come, so make sure you provide your feedback.

## • Teacher Supply

We continue to work with the Secondary Principals Council and on 10 November released the follow up teacher supply survey results. We had good media attention but still haven't been able to convey the sense of urgency needed to the government. We are continuing to work in this at every opportunity and at every level.

## • NZSTA

At our Executive Meeting we met with Lorraine Kerr, President of NZSTA and Rob Gold Business Performance and Engagement Manager. We had an excellent discussion. Two challenges we put to Lorraine and Rob were:

1. Who has responsibility for the Principals' wellbeing? What is STA doing to promote this?
2. How effective is STA in the industrial negotiations in representing Boards? Is STA active in advocating for the interest of Boards?

We were encouraged by the responses and are looking forward to working with Lorraine and Rob.

## • Education Council

### Appraisal

The Council has run a number of appraisal workdays around the country, report are that they are very workable. If you would like a workshop in your area contact the Council, they are very keen to assist.

### TER (Teacher Education Refresher Programme)

Some confusion remains over who has to do this programme to get certificated. See the Council "Fact Check" on their website.

Any teacher who has had full certification can continue to teach/relieve even if they don't meet the requirements for full certification (i.e. they don't have sufficient teaching).

They simply change to STC (Subject to Confirmation) which they can stay as forever. You only need to do the TER if you didn't move past provisional registration within six years.

## VULNERABLE CHILDREN: POLICE VETTING - URGENT VETS

The Ministry of Education is continuing their work with the sector and the Police around timeliness, especially

for teacher aides and other urgent vets. 98% of vets are currently processed in 15-16 working days. Details around the implementation of a system of prioritising urgent vets will be available soon, with the emphasis being on speedy (2-5 days) and equitable access for schools and ECE. Over time, timeframes will improve as volumes stabilise; many checks at the moment are for children's workers employed prior to the current legislation.

MoE has undertaken to keep working with Police on this and ask us to feed back if our experiences don't match, and in what specific circumstances, and they will follow this up.

The link <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/employing-and-managing-staff/police-vetting-for-schools-and-kura-maori/> might be useful if you have further queries.

## LAT'S

Feedback from the sector is that the ability to apply for a Limited Authority to Teach for up to three years, for teachers who do not hold a teaching qualification, has been well received. The fact that a LAT applies to the person rather than the school, has further simplified the process.

## BULLYING FREE NEW ZEALAND

We would like to remind our members about the Bullying-Free NZ Website.

This website is designed to act as a central hub for New Zealand schools. It provides resources and support to schools to review, plan, build capacity and implement evidence-informed bullying prevention approaches. Research on effective bullying prevention approaches is a growing field internationally and within New Zealand.

As new information becomes available on effective bullying prevention approaches, resources, and legislation this website will be updated.

<https://www.bullyingfree.nz/schools/>

## LABOUR MANIFESTO

The Labour manifesto mentions the change to Student Visas being cut back, so secondary schools are not so dependent. <http://www.labour.org.nz/educationmanifesto>

## NZ KOREAN STUDY TOUR 2018

On behalf of the NZ Korean Study Tour 2018 (NZKST), they will be running a tour which will consist of up to 15 principals/deputy principals/senior management staff, and will be traveling within Korea, visiting Korean schools and educational organizations between 14-21 April 2018.

Application submission date is on **Tuesday, 28 November 2017.**

The information about the tour can be found on their website - [http://www.nzkoreanedu.com/bbs/board.php?bo\\_table=sub04\\_1&wr\\_id=9](http://www.nzkoreanedu.com/bbs/board.php?bo_table=sub04_1&wr_id=9)

## SPANZ CONFERENCE

You will find further information around the Conference on our website, including the registration form.

You will see an **EARLY BIRD** rate is available this year for bookings made prior to 31 January - please note this is for Members only.

To become a SPANZ member please contact the office for an application form: [office@spanz.school.nz](mailto:office@spanz.school.nz)

Nga mihi

**Michael Williams**

**SPANZ President**

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