

President's Comment 8



Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

23 July 2015

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to Term 3. I trust you have had a break and have managed to escape the worst of the winter chills.

Your Executive is working in a number of areas of importance to you as Secondary School Principals some of which are listed below. I encourage you to email me your thoughts on these or other issues that you encounter in your role as a Secondary School Principal.

Educational Council of Aotearoa New Zealand – SPANZ Position

While SPANZ recognises the legislative authority of the newly created Council and wishes it every success, it is important to note that SPANZ will continue to be the independent professional voice for secondary school principals in New Zealand.

Your Executive are elected by your peers and hold the trust and confidence of secondary school principals throughout the country. We will maintain strong leadership and advocacy for you in the best interests of secondary education.

Restraint And Seclusion Guidelines

SPANZ is represented on an advisory group charged with developing guidelines on 'Restraint and Seclusion' for the school sector. It is anticipated that the guidelines will indicate 'best practice' in this area, reduce legal risk for schools and provide an opportunity for training for staff involved.

It is important to note that 'time out' practices, which are a useful disciplinary tool in specific circumstances, are exempt from these guidelines.

Legal Brief For Schools Facing Legal Proceedings

It is hoped that in the next few months, SPANZ will be able to advise that any of our members who have had legal proceedings initiated against them on a similar basis to the St Bede's case, will be able, through our legal advisors, Harrison Stone, to access a 'Statement of Defence', legal argument and case law which will save considerable expense and time. The Ministry is to be congratulated for its support of school leaders facing legal action.

Review of The Education Act 1989 and School Resourcing

SPANZ has welcomed the review of the Education Act and resourcing of schools. The Education Act, including its numerous amendments, have made the law overly complex and fragmented and at times irrelevant. The Act also needs to be 'student and learner' focussed, which it currently is not. School resourcing requires guiding principles based on equity and learning needs. These reviews are of the upmost significance and must allow the school sector a full opportunity to co-construct the principles and funding models. SPANZ has already made its position clear on this.

Ministry of Education and NZEI Joint Initiative

An agreement between the Ministry of Education and NZEI was announced earlier this week on a model that fits the concept of Community of Schools. The way forward proposed amongst other things includes greater flexibility within the leadership. There will still be a Lead Principal with provision to have other leadership roles within a Community of Schools.

STAR Funding

Significant changes to Star funding show some schools to be better off while others not so. We advise that you do a scenario with your roll numbers before finalising your budgets for next year.

Document is attached.

Nāga mihi

Sandy Pasley
President

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