



Michael Williams
President

Dear Colleagues,

Hopefully you have farewelled your staff and students or will be doing so shortly and now it's time to tidy up the urgent loose ends.

On Friday I am taking up an invitation to meet with the Universities' Vice Chancellor Committee, the intention is to set up a communication channel between Secondary Principals and

the Vice Chancellor so we are able to support each other better. One topic I will be talking to them about is the teacher shortage, I think it is important that they understand the challenges from our perspective. I will also be asking them for their support in promoting our profession to their students and graduates.

Initial teacher education is also a topic for discussion and I will be encouraging them to be courageous and look at new models clearly the current standardised model doesn't work.

Recently we were able to get a meeting with our new Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins. Deidre Shea and I had a very productive meeting with him, we wanted to ensure he understood that SPANZ is a truly independent voice that represents over 80% of the state secondary school principals in New Zealand and over 80% of the secondary school students in New Zealand. We assured him that Secondary Principals are pragmatic and solutions focused, we want to work with him. We can offer practical and independent advice on how to achieve the goals of the new government. Deidre and I were impressed with his willingness to listen and find solutions.

URGENT POLICE VETTING SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR EARLY LEARNING SERVICES & SCHOOLS

Urgent police vets have been made available from 1 December. More detailed information will be in the next issue of the Ministry of Education's bulletin.

- NZ Police's standard response time for processing vets is 20 working days. Although timeliness has improved, there is still a need for an expedited service for urgent recruitment in exceptional circumstances
- The Ministry has reached an agreement with NZ Police for a set number of expedited vets for two years, for early learning services and schools, with a processing time of 2-5 working days
- The number of expedited vets available will be a maximum of 5,000 until 30 June 2018, and a further 5,000 from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
- Schools pay no extra for an urgent vet

Criteria: An urgent vet is available for services/schools needing

to urgently recruit new, core children's workers in a critical or crisis situation. For example, an urgent vet can be requested to recruit staff to:

- support a learning or behavioural need for a currently enrolled or newly enrolled child/student
- cover unexpected or extreme staff sickness
- provide support in a crisis or traumatic situation.

Urgent vets are not available for:

- teachers who hold a current practising certificate issued by the Education Council
- recruitment of non-core children's workers
- 3-yearly renewals/periodic rechecks of core or non-core children's workers
- unpaid staff, eg volunteers
- adults living in a home where home-based education and care takes place.

Process and monitoring:

- On identifying a need for an urgent vet, submit the vet request as usual, and enter EDUCATION URGENT into the 'Agency Reference' field of the online vetting request form
- It is important to enter the code accurately, in order for the vet to be identified as urgent. It cannot be reassessed and deprioritised by NZ Police

SPANZ OFFICE

2018 Invoicing - as a courtesy notice we will roll over your membership as is now into 2018, and will invoice accordingly. If you would like to make any changes please update your membership via our online form (on the website) and return prior to 10 January 2018.

Christmas and Summer Holidays - The SPANZ Office will be closed from Friday 15th December, and we will reopen Tuesday 30th January. Jo Young will be available on mobile and email the weeks in between.

Thank you for your support this year, my last three terms as President have been extremely busy, the quality of the work done by our secretariat (Jo and Suzy) and the Executive Team is outstanding and I can assure you that the voice of secondary principals has been heard loud and clear.

We wish you a safe and happy break over the festive season, ensure you take some time out, your wellbeing needs to be your top priority!

Nga mihi

Michael Williams, SPANZ President

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