



Sandy Pasley
SPANZ President

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Dear Colleagues

Complexities of the Principal's Position

The role of a Principal is a very complex one. While it is one of the most satisfying and rewarding jobs, it also brings with it many challenges and on occasion some very testing times. I believe it is paramount that we as Secondary School Principals support and encourage each other in our endeavours to provide instructional leadership and good management in our schools.

One of the ways in which we can be better informed about how we manage our work is through organisations such as NZCER who regularly survey Principals. Their latest survey *Secondary National Survey 2015*, will have arrived in your inbox in the last two weeks. I strongly encourage you to take the time to complete it. NZCER *aim to have data available for sharing with sector organisations and the Ministry of Education in early October and an overview report published in late November.*

Providing information through surveys is one way in which we can be better informed and supported, however, we as Principals could do better at picking up the phone and ringing a colleague or the SPANZ office if there appears to be a situation in our school that could lead to difficulties in the future. The expertise and experience is held within our sector and we need to be more proactive in seeking it out. The role of secondary school leader should not be one that isolates and confines us, rather it needs to be one where successes are shared and applauded and the difficulties that from time to time we all face can also be shared in confidence and resolved.

In this vein I would like to remind you of the SPANZ goals, and ask that you proactively work with your Executive to maintain and strengthen them.

1. To promote the development of competent, well-informed and confident secondary principals by
 - (a) Providing a range of educational conferences, seminars and other forums for professional exchange.
 - (b) Developing a comprehensive information-sharing network.
 - (c) Promoting the development of skills and qualifications for principals and prospective principals
 - (d) Maintaining links with international principals' groups.

2. To support the professional and personal wellbeing of members by
 - (a) Advocating remuneration and conditions of service appropriate to the responsibilities that principals carry.
 - (b) Promoting effective Principals/Board working relationships
 - (c) Providing professional and legal advice to members
 - (d) Fostering a collegial support network for members
3. To initiate and participate in educational debate and policy development by
 - (a) Consulting effectively with members
 - (b) Representing principals in educational and public forums
 - (c) Maintaining wide, regular contact with education groups and agencies
 - (d) Building linkages with relevant groups outside the education sector

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President

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