



Michael Williams
President

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all followed the advice you invariably gave your own staff at the end of last year and actually had a decent break and reconnected with friends, family and self.

2018 promises to be a very interesting year, with many critical aspects of education under

pressure, review and change.

The teacher shortage is not going to be resolved quickly, however as I keep telling the media the worst impact will be softened by Principals and Teachers as we desperately search for short term patches so that our students don't suffer because of Government inaction. We will make things work somehow. Pulling retirees back into the classroom, converting teachers to teach in hard to staff curriculum areas and appointing short term cover to get us through all come with a cost, in the huge extra work load our staff take on to support these solution.

Ironically workload is one of the factors driving teachers from the profession. Let's hope 2018 is the year our concerns are taken seriously and we get some real action on a Teacher's salaries, workload and promotion of the profession.

Other big initiatives that could dramatically impact our work include:

- The review of initial teacher education
- The education leadership strategy - this consultation document came out at the end of last year. Please have a read and have your say <https://educationcouncil.org.nz/content/leadership-strategy>
- The NCEA review - once we get to see the terms of reference we will have more of an idea of the scope but indications are that it will be wide reaching. My big concern is that the review does not lose sight of the significant and critical segment in our community who have been the real 'winners' under NCEA.
- Communities of Learning - the initiative appears to be here to stay, but does the new Government have plans for any changes?
- Funding Review - this seems to have gone off the agenda for the new Government, however the inadequacies of the current system, that forced the need for the review, are still there!

Overall the sector desperately needs direction from the new

Government on many initiatives, hopefully the Minister has had sufficient time to understand the issues, now we need direction and collaboration.

CONFERENCE

Our annual conference is fast approaching. A reminder today is the final day for our EARLY BIRD offer to members, any registrations received tomorrow will be invoiced at the higher rate - registration form can be found online - <https://www.spanz.school.nz/principal-conference/>

Please note accommodation at Rydges Lakeland Resort is now exhausted, you may find alternative accommodation at Crowne Plaza or other local apartments.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

At the end of last year we called for nominations for the Executive (closing this Friday 2nd February). Please give some thought to putting your hand up. It is healthy for the organisation to have elections (albeit stressful) and by putting your hand up you do signal to the Executive that you want to be involved and often we can tap into that, even if you are not successful. For the organisation to stay strong we need to be continually regenerating ourselves.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

I don't normally give endorsements but I am making an exception for the MindLab Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Practice (Digital and Collaborative Learning)

Normal cost is \$2,750, BUT scholarships from the Next Foundation reduces the cost to a manageable \$750! Many of our staff have done the course and loved it. More importantly it has changed their thinking and the learning that happens in their classrooms. See attached flyer!

SPANZ OFFICE

2018 Invoicing - all invoicing has been done for the 2018 year, please get in touch with the office if you would like to make any adjustments to your membership - office@spanz.school.nz. We value the support of our peers.

Nga mihi

Michael Williams, SPANZ President

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