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VOICE OF LOW PAID EDUCATION WORKERS TO RING OUT AT PAY EQUITY RALLY

The voice of low paid school support staff will be heard loud and clear at today's pay equity rally at parliament.

School support staff know all about the realities of pay *inequity*. They are among the lowest paid workforces in the country despite working at the frontline of education as teacher aides, administrators, librarians, ICT and sports co-ordinators, therapists and nurses.

Many earn as little as \$12.94 an hour but despite this the government has offered them a 0% pay increase in their current pay negotiations.

As an almost completely female dominated workforce, their work has been historically undervalued and they are clear victims of the gender pay gap.

The government's move to close down the Department of Labour's pay and employment equity unit and halt all further pay investigations was another blow, as a pay equity investigation had been recommended for thousands of teacher aides around the country.

The education sector union NZEI is also calling on the government to honour the findings of a completed pay investigation which found that education support workers, who work with special needs children, are significantly underpaid.

"It's important to highlight that the gender pay gap is alive and kicking and there appears to be a campaign by this government to undermine and undervalue the rights of women workers," says NZEI National Secretary Paul Goulter.

Hundreds of NZEI members will be at today's rally at parliament (12.30pm) and an NZEI support staff member will be one of the speakers addressing the crowd. (Speech attached)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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