

# HANDS UP FOR LEARNING!

KIA MAU KI TE WHAKAAKO

NZEI TE RIU ROA  
NEW ZEALAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE



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## BUDGET WISH LIST FOR EDUCATION

The education sector union NZEI Te Riu Roa is calling on the government to deliver a Budget which puts its money where its mouth in terms of education spending.

NZEI represents 49,000 education sector workers from early childhood and primary school teachers to primary principals and support and special education staff.

NZEI National Secretary Paul Goulter says “we want a Budget that values teaching and learning. The government cannot claim education as a priority area if it continues to treat it as a cost rather than an investment.”

NZEI’s wish list for this year’s Budget includes:-

### **Quality early childhood education**

Quality early childhood education helps families, boosts participation levels and sets children up for successful future learning. The government claims it is costing too much and has signalled funding changes ahead. NZEI says there must be no moves to increase costs for parents and nothing which would compromise the progress and ongoing drive towards quality early childhood education. It says every dollar spent on early childhood education is worth it and more investment is needed.

### **Teacher staffing to be reinstated**

NZEI is calling on the government to reinstate the \$95 million of staffing it planned to take out over the next four years. The staffing cuts were unveiled in last year’s Budget but the government has never outlined or consulted the sector on how those cuts would be made. NZEI says any reduction in teacher numbers would mean bigger class sizes throughout the country, and does not take account of the baby boom which is due to hit schools in two to three years.

### **Operational funding increase**

Schools are facing an uphill battle to make ends meet and need a meaningful boost to their operational funding – not simply an inflation adjusted increase. NZEI believes an increase of 10% is needed to help schools manage and to stop parents facing higher and higher school fees. It would also help boost the pay and conditions of low paid school support staff, who are funded through the Operations Grant, and give them more job security.

### **PPPs**

The Budget is likely to contain details of plans to build a school under a private public partnership. NZEI believes PPPs are a risk to public education and says safeguards must be put in place to protect public education from profit-driven private investment. Schools and their facilities are also at the heart of our communities and are important public assets.

### **No more taxpayer money to private schools**

Last year’s Budget handed over \$35 million of taxpayers’ money to private schools. NZEI says taxpayer money should be used to support public education not to prop up or bail out private schools. It is unethical for the government to give money private school providers when public

schools are struggling to provide basic services and are having to rely on big fund-raising top ups from their local communities.

On top of all this NZEI is also about to begin pay negotiations for principals and teachers. It hopes the Government has put aside enough money to recognise the contribution they make and stop them heading overseas in search of better pay and conditions.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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