

HANDS UP FOR LEARNING!

KIA MAU KI TE WHAKAAKO

Trial National Standards, Not Our Kids

NZEI TE RIU ROA

ORGANISING A COMMUNITY FORUM

PURPOSE:

- Forums raise awareness of parents/wider community and members
- They make the campaign visible/real
- We have people (academics and others) who can convey the information and messages well and are willing to support our forums
- Forums promote discussion and answer questions
- We need to support parents/community to have a voice in the campaign

WHAT MAKES FORUMS SUCCESSFUL?

- Initiated by school community/branch/area council
- Location ensures a good attendance (e.g. in a school hall)
- Right time of day (i.e. when people are able to attend)
- Appropriate speakers for target audience
- The opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussion
- Attract media to raise awareness in the wider community
- Parents/whanau members who wish to be active in the campaign are identified and their contact details recorded
- Those people are followed up
- Further action in the community

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING A FORUM

Every forum is different. Some are an informal chat in the staff room over a cuppa and some are more formal meetings in halls with advertising and media. But all have the same purpose — to raise awareness in the community. Here are some rough guidelines. Contact your NZEI field officer for assistance and advice.

- Identify local members who wish to support a forum (these can be under the umbrella of the branch/area council but include other members who are keen to be active in the campaign)
- Set up an organising committee
- Identify a location (e.g. a host school)
- Identify a chair (e.g. a principal or well known local personality)
- Arrange a speaker and/or a panel who will attract public and media attention and who can speak with authority. This may be an academic or a local principal. You could include a representative of the early childhood, Maori or Pacifica community.

- Contact local media and invite them to the forum.
- Limit the speaking times and include time for questions.
- Make sure everyone on the organising group commits to bringing a minimum number of people.
- Seek commitment from the principal(s) to get a newsletter to parents.
- Place an advertisement in your local community paper and contact community radio for free advertising.
- Seek the support of the Board of Trustees.
- Invite local community groups, including groups holding family values such as churches and women's groups.
- Use the parent contact form to collect the names of parents/whanau who'd like to be kept up to date or get involved in the campaign
- Make sure there is a clear invitation at the end of the meeting for parents/whanau to sign on to get involved.
- Follow up after the meeting.