

18 August 2010/24e

Overwhelming rejection of Ministry's pay offer

Thanks to all of you who responded to the ballots on the Ministry of Education's offers to primary teachers and principals. You strongly rejected the offers.

Primary teachers also strongly rejected the Ministry's offer, especially its claim to allow all units to be awarded fixed term. Strong support was indicated for all the statements that were voted on.

These meetings demonstrate primary teachers' commitment to achieving a fair settlement. Record numbers of members participated in school discussions and uploaded their votes on line. Many schools took the opportunity to add their own comments and indicate their support. The negotiating team is very encouraged by this. It is not too late for schools to [upload their results](#) and make sure their views are counted.

Principals overwhelmingly rejected both the offer and the Ministry's claim to stipulate annual leave in the collective agreement. This will be reported to the Ministry when principals' negotiations resume on Thursday 19th August.

Beyond National Standards: Support to engage parents in student learning

NZEI has produced some new materials to promote the importance of the partnership between parents, whānau, teachers and students, and to inform parents about National Standards reporting. Worksites are being mailed the material this week and you can also [download the leaflet and poster](#). Further copies of the material can be ordered from stephanie.mills@nzei.org.nz.

Anger builds over ECE cuts

Parents are getting behind ECE teachers, with a [recent NZEI survey](#) gathered by ECE members around the country showing nearly 99% wanted 100% qualified teachers.

Fifty thousand postcards are now being distributed around the country, calling on the Prime Minister to reinstate the 100% target and funding to support it. Primary principals were enthusiastic signatories during meetings over the last few weeks, saying they believed quality ECE made an important difference to children's success at school. A march is planned for Saturday August 28th in Tauranga to protest the cuts. If you'd like to support the postcard campaign, please contact **0800 NZEI HELP (0800 693 443)** or email nzei@nzei.org.nz.

Barnardos settlement ratified by members

The terms of settlement for the Barnardos negotiations were overwhelmingly supported by members. The new agreement is being prepared. As the new pay rates came into effect from 1 July 2010 members will be notified which pay period they can expect the new rates to be implemented in and back-payment.

Rally for Fairness @ Work - this Saturday 1pm

Is it right that employees can be sacked with no right of appeal for unfair dismissal? [Let us know your views.](#)

NZEI encourages members to attend Fairness @ Work events in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch this Saturday and in Dunedin on Sunday - [all details here.](#)

The events are a response to the Government's new employment law proposals reducing the rights of working people. The Government wants to extend the 90 day 'fire at will' law to all workplaces, give employers the right to ask for sick notes after just one day's leave, let people sell their fourth week's holiday and give employers the right to refuse to let union staff enter workplaces. For more information visit www.fairness.org.nz.

Don't miss out - join Stronger Together

[Stronger Together](#) is a member-only website for NZEI members where there is information and the opportunity to discuss issues before and during [Annual Meeting](#). Even if you're not attending Annual Meeting, this is a great place to contribute to the debate about NZEI's work. **If you are coming to Annual Meeting, please consider bringing your laptop and smart phone to AM to support e-campaigning in the non-plenary planning and campaigning sessions.**

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