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Because Teaching Matters... read on for details of your pay claim

Over the past few months, primary teacher and principal members have sent the clear message that there are three key principles you want as foundations for the re-negotiation of your collective agreement:

- Maintaining pay parity across the teaching profession
- Ensuring there is no decrease in the value of your pay relative to inflation; and
- A two year term to take the agreement through to 2012.

In the last few days, NZEI has lodged on your behalf, claims for both primary teachers and principals with the Ministry of Education.

The Government acknowledges education is a key investment in a productive and successful future for all New Zealanders. It has a vision of closing the pay gap with Australia. NZEI agrees with both these premises.

In line with your views, the NZEI base pay **claim** for both primary teachers and principals is for a **4% increase in 2010 and an increase pegged to inflation (the CPI) in 2011**. The PPTA has started negotiations with the Ministry on the basis of claiming a 4% increase for secondary teachers.

In lodging these claims, NZEI has told the Ministry that it must take on board two key messages. These are:

- **Investing in teachers is investing in our future** - the quality of an education system depends on the quality of its teachers.
- **Closing the significant pay gap** between Australia and New Zealand is a priority - New Zealand currently loses nearly 600 teachers every year to Australia.

Sustaining fair levels of pay

The principle of pay parity is fundamental to fairly rewarding teachers at whatever year-level your students are. You have told us in no uncertain terms that maintaining pay parity with PPTA members is your number one priority in bargaining. At the same time, the Treasury has forecast a significant blow out of the CPI (consumer price index – essentially the inflation figure) in 2011 because of the impact of a 2.5% increase in GST from October 1 this year.

Other claims

Principal and teacher members overwhelmingly endorsed the other claims set out in your respective **claims booklets**. One additional claim was agreed for teachers: to recognise resource teachers' skills and experience with a claim for an additional unit after 5 years.

There was also one claim added in for principals. This was to provide access to the tutor teacher allowance in situations where there is no viable alternative to the principal taking on this role.

We look forward to your support during bargaining. The first round of primary teacher bargaining will be from June 2-4 and NZEI will provide regular updates on progress. Please post comments or messages of support to your primary teacher negotiating team at **teaching matters**.

Principals bargaining will commence on June 11. Principal members will be kept updated through the Principal to Principal (P2P) ezine. Claims have not yet been lodged by the PPTA and SPANZ on behalf of secondary principals.

NZEI and PPTA are monitoring the progress of primary and secondary bargaining before lodging a joint claim on behalf of area school members.

Best wishes

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Team leader
Primary Teachers Negotiating Team

Tony Hamilton
Team leader
Primary Principals Negotiating Team

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