

Summary of the NZEI Te Riu Roa Principals' Council Meeting held at National Office, Wellington 5 – 6 August 2011.

Plenary Session

The National President Ian Leckie spoke about responding to the challenges of maintaining QPE by having NZEI and the profession leading the discussion about protecting quality public education.

NZEI Communications Director Stephanie Mills provided information regarding the 'Speak Up for Education' campaign and NZEI's paid television advertising campaign based on positive experiences.

The National Secretary Paul Goulter reported on the International Congress of Educational Leaders conference that he and Ian Leckie recently attended in Capetown. The worldwide trend towards privatisation of education was the main topic of debate and discussion at the conference.

Paul Goulter later met with the Council and highlighted the importance of being prepared to respond to the threat of a testing regime that could be linked to a principal's performance and pay.

Other matters discussed by the Principals' Council included:

Recognition and Remuneration in a Quality Public Education – Report to Annual Meeting

The report focuses on NZEI's commitment to advancing quality public education and the need to develop an effective recognition and remuneration system. The Council discussed what drives pay rates now and what needs to be changed.

National Standards

NZEI is seeking to establish precisely where every school is at in terms of the National Standards and will be contacting each school individually to gain this information.

RTLB Translation

The Council was updated on the work NZEI was undertaking in conjunction with the MoE on the RTLB transformation.

NZEI will be surveying principals of primary schools who employ RTLB to gain accurate information to enable NZEI to advocate for principals who may be negatively affected by the outcomes of the transformation.

Education Review Office

The Council discussed the impact ERO reviews had on worksites and provided examples of inconsistency and variability of approach by some review teams. The Council noted the key role the team leader plays in establishing a positive relationship with the principal and setting the tone for the way the review team approaches its tasks during the review process. The Council recommended that the option of using a 'friend of the school' should be retained.

MMP Presentation

Sandie Gray, MMPCoalition, outlined the respective strengths and weaknesses of the election options and the case for retaining MMP as the best means of gaining a broader representation of New Zealand's diverse population in Parliament. She noted that, if retained, there would be an independent review of MMP and believed this would be an opportunity to make it stronger.

Report Back on Term 2 Principals' Update Meetings

The attendance level at some meetings was disappointing. Feedback at the meetings on moving from great to excellent and considerations around principals' remuneration and recognition will be useful in planning next steps. [Click here for a summary of responses.](#)

Christchurch Update

Mike Hogan, principal Prebbleton School, updated the Council on the challenges many Christchurch schools were still facing and the immense pressure being experienced by principals and their staff. Darrell Ward reported on the damage to the NZEI regional office premises and the temporary arrangements that had been made to enable NZEI to continue to operate and support schools in the Christchurch area.

NEAG Area Council Group Meetings

NEAG members met in their respective Area Council groups to discuss reporting back to ACs on work and activities arising from the August NEAG meetings. Non AC organizations represented on the Council met separately to discuss their role in supporting NZEI campaigns and reporting back to their constituent groups.