

Bullet points for School Support staff speakers at the Low Pay rallies

27 November 2009

These bullet points are guidelines to assist NZEI members who are speaking at the low paid workers' rallies on the 27 November.

Speak slowly and clearly. Start by introducing yourself and end by thanking those at the rally for their support.

Say something like:

- My name is I am a member school support staff member of NZEI Te Riu Roa. I work as a (eg teacher aide, school secretary etc). I'm here today with other school support staff members.
- 13,000 school staff members of our union have been in negotiations with the Ministry of Education for over a year.
- School support staff are absolutely vital to the running of our schools. But despite the importance of the job, we are undervalued and underpaid.
- School support staff, who work in very demanding roles such as working with children with disabilities and very high needs, **can be paid as low \$12.94 an hour** – 44 cents above the minimum wage. Many of us earn as little as \$15,000 a year despite working all day of every school day of the year.
- The Government are telling us that there is no money for a pay increase. They blame the recession, they blame the previous government – but as far as we're concerned its time for them to take responsibility to pay us the fair wage we are entitled to.
- All we want is a fair deal. It is not fair to undervalue our work and the work of other low paid workers in the state sector. .
- Through our Fair Deal campaign school support staff have become the pink army. We will not go away. We will keep fighting for a fair deal.
- We're asking government to start valuing our work and start valuing the education of the children we work with.
- We're asking government to lift the freeze on school support staff pay and the freeze on other low paid workers.
- Thank you for your support today. Our voice is much stronger when we fight the wage freeze together.