

STRONGER TOGETHER FOR FAIR PAY

NZEI · TE RIU ROA
NEW ZEALAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

one hundred and twenty five years

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Ngātahi Aumangea Ake

Support Staff Campaign: Principals

NZEI has been lobbying the Government for six years to address the issue of pay and job security for support staff. We know that schools face a dilemma with support staff as they are funded through the Operations Grant and compete with other priorities for funding. NZEI is looking for a solution that will work for you, your support staff, and the school community.

Recently the Minister of Education indicated his intention to address the issue of low pay in schools by increasing the bottom pay scales for school cleaners and caretakers by over \$2 an hour. It is understood that this will apply from 2009 and that “new money” will go into the Operations Grant targeted to the increases negotiated.

The minimum rates for cleaners would then be around \$2 an hour higher than those of teacher aides and some administrative staff. NZEI believes that those people working directly with children and the community are worth as much as those cleaning the school. We are campaigning strongly for government to address the support staff pay issue.

This is a critical campaign which will benefit all schools. The problem of recruiting and retaining quality support staff due to low pay rates affects all schools. The shortfalls in the Operations Grant must be addressed so skilled support staff are retained in every school.

NZEI is asking all principals to strongly support this campaign.

We are also working with other sector stakeholders to resolve this together.

How can principals support this campaign?

- You can talk to your Board of Trustees and explain the campaign. If you need any additional material go to the Support Staff page on the NZEI website www.nzei.org.nz
- Encourage all your support staff to be involved in the campaign and support them to attend meetings, recruit non members to union membership and participate in campaign activities.
- Raise the issue with your local principals association and ask them to publicly support the campaign.
- Send a message of support to NZEI which may be posted on the NZEI webpage: ssfairpay@nzei.org.nz
- Ask your board if they would support higher wages for support staff, on the basis that it is funded with additional money in the operations grant. Boards should write to:
 - The Minister of Education.
 - The New Zealand Schools Trustees Association
 - The Ministry of Education
 - Your local Member of Parliament

Thank you for your support

Frances Nelson

National President

Te Manukura