Annual Meeting 2010 was the first meeting under a reorganised and revitalised NZEI Te Riu Roa structure. The focus was on building an organisation more responsive and more capable of meeting the challenges in front of it.

President Frances Nelson told members that “being union” was being used by government as a derogatory term to offset criticism of opposing views.

“Our professional work is being both insulted and assualted. Respectful relationships and consensus decision-making are the “wind in the sails” of a successful education system, but are sadly lacking at the moment,” she said.

The Government appeared to be moving away from a partnership model with the voice and contribution of practitioners. The value of having qualified teachers at all levels of the system was being dismissed as no longer relevant or necessary.

“We prize collaboration and shared responsibility. We know that new leaders are rising in NZEI who are as impressive as the challenges we face,” said Frances Nelson.

National Secretary Paul Goulter asked “What's going on in education in New Zealand?”

“I hope that I'm wrong and that in two years time you can tell me so. But I believe that the Government has a radical reform agenda for education and is determined to see it through. There is a battle for control of the sector taking place professionally and industrially. The Government wants to lock in “root and branch” reforms - and for that it needs to change the context and change the culture in education.

Paul Goulter said it was likely National would have “school choice” and the promotion of “independent” schools in its election manifesto, hoping that change at the margins of the system would mean schooling overall changed. He said the Government wanted to change the culture in education from collegial, consultative and respectful to having unilateral control so that it could embed changes such as National Standards, ECE cuts, PPPs, private
school funding increases, and other education policies outlined by Don Brash's 2025 report and ACT/National/Maori Party’s “Step Change” report.

“So what do we need to do? NZEI members together need to build an alternative vision for education, based on our values for quality education. We can’t shut our eyes and do “business as usual”; we need a long term strategic campaign. If we are not serious about defending our values and our vision we will lose.”

“Our goal must be to make our vision the rock on which governments rise and fall. That’s my view but what counts is your view, your passion and your determination to fight for what we believe.”

Annual Meeting was held in the Energy Events Centre in Rotorua, the first time for decades it has been held out of Wellington. A highlight of the conference was a united - but silent - protest by members about National Standards and ECE cuts during the Education Minister’s speech, which received wide media attention. A new process of members meeting in Area Council groups during Annual Meeting to begin planning their work for 2011 was very successful. Area Councils will complete their planning during Term 4. Contact your branch or Area Council representative for more information about local plans in your area.

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**Strategic Framework**

**Building the Union in the 21 century**

To be the most powerful education union in NZ

Hei Uniana Mātauranga Aumangea mo Aotearoa

Leveraging our professional and industrial capacity

Te Huanga o te ngaio te whānuitanga ahumahi

**Goals to deliver our strategy**

- **Build (Te Hanga)**
  - leadership capacity and capability
  - informed activism
  - member engagement through effective communication strategies
  - the unions capability and capacity

- **Grow (Whakatupu)**
  - membership density across all sectors

- **Win (Eke panuku)**
  - campaigns that further the cause of quality education

**Delivering on Sector Strategies**

- **Primary Teachers**
  - Kaiako

- **Early Childhood**
  - Kōhanga Reo

- **Support Staff**
  - Kaawhina Tautoko

- **Primary Principals**
  - Tumuaki

- **Special Education**
  - Umanga Mātauranga

District Council, Branch, Aronui Tōmua, Komiti Pasifika, and Network plans
Key issues in 2011

Annual Meeting 2010 was presented with four special reports reflecting key issues facing the education sector and agreed to a number of recommendations to guide NZEI’s work and policy into the future.

Early Childhood Education Quality at Risk

The “Early Childhood Education – Quality at Risk” report to Annual Meeting outlined the importance of quality early childhood education and the sector’s commitment to the target of 100% qualified staff. Quality early childhood education is under threat from the massive cuts to early childhood education announced by the Government in the May Budget. The cuts will affect about 2,000 services and more than 90,000 children and undermine efforts to provide quality education.

Annual Meeting agreed that:

1. NZEI confirm its policy of 100% qualified and registered teachers in regulated positions in early childhood services
2. NZEI adopt as policy that the government should spend 1% of Gross Domestic Product on early childhood education, as advocated by UNICEF

A campaign based on reversing the Government’s ECE funding cuts and reinstatement of the 100% qualified teacher target is currently getting wide community support. This will be a key part of NZEI’s work in the run up to the 2011 election. See www.ecetogether.org.nz to get involved.

National Standards – A Cautionary Tale

The report National Standards – a cautionary tale outlined why the Government’s National Standards policy has been one of the most divisive education policies legislated for New Zealand primary schools in the past 150 years. It provided comment and discussion on the issues and concerns around National Standards, the design flaws, the government’s wider agenda and NZEI’s position and response.

Annual Meeting endorsed the report and agreed:

1. That no school be compelled to implement the National Standards until that school’s community is satisfied the Government’s National Standards policy and implementation process is:
   ■ fair to students and communities (i.e. meet student learning needs and parent needs for shared information)
   ■ respectful of educators (i.e. principals, teachers, and the school community including boards of trustees and parents)
   ■ evidence-based on best-available knowledge
2. That, prior to embarking on the implementation of the Standards, professional development and learning opportunities are essential to enable staff and trustees to confidently understand and work with a revised system and to ensure the process supports quality teaching in The New Zealand Curriculum.

3. That NZEI supports and confirms the position agreed by the NZPF National Conference 2010 regarding the Government’s National Standards policy and its implementation by stating:
   ■ that the National Standards will not deliver the outcomes as intended
   ■ that a complete revision of the National Standards system in partnership with the sector be actioned with urgency

4. That NZEI confirms its policy that assessment data should be used only for the purpose it has been collected i.e. to support teaching and learning

5. That NZEI does not support the reporting of school data in league tables.

National Standards has been a high profile campaign during 2010 and will continue to be a key part of NZEI’s work in the lead up to the 2011 election. See www.handsupforlearning.org.nz to get involved.

Public Private Partnerships in Public Education

Non-state or overseas ownership of state and integrated school buildings is edging closer to becoming a reality in New Zealand. The Government is moving ahead with plans to establish public private partnerships in education, saying a tender process could start as early as next year.

Annual Meeting 2010 recommended that:
1. NZEI campaign to be involved in any consultation over the development of a business case for a PPP proposal at both a national and local level.

2. NZEI adopt as policy that teaching and learning programmes within the school should sit within the framework of the New Zealand Curriculum/Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and be free of commercial influence or interference.

3. NZEI adopt as policy that contracts established under PPPs must allow the school full use of the site and not limit the use to school hours and term dates. They must not fetter the ability of any school to provide comprehensive programmes and a range of events or service on site, which are responsive to the local context and community interest. These decisions belong to the board of trustees and the school leaders.
**Advancing Quality Public Education**

The report *Advancing Quality Public Education* was written in response to the Minister of Education’s Education Workforce Advisory Group report – *A Vision for the Teaching Profession*. During Term 4, NZEI members will be involved in developing our own ‘vision’ paper to further advance quality public education and ensure NZEI’s professional and industrial voice is heard in the run up to the 2011 election and beyond.

This will be based on current NZEI policy, strategic plans and campaigns, past and current professional and industrial work as well as research. It will involve consultation throughout NZEI Te Riu Roa and be published in 2011.

Annual Meeting endorsed the report and agreed that:

- the vision work should be actioned through the NZEI Te Riu Roa 2010 and 2011 strategic and operational plans.

**New Leadership at NZEI**

Annual Meeting elected a new Executive for 2011-12

**National President**

Ian Leckie

**Immediate Past President**

Frances Nelson

**National Vice President**

Frances Guy

**National Executive: General Membership**

David Kennedy
Fiona Matapo
Judith Nowotarski
Rikki Sheterline

**National Executive: Early Childhood**

Hayley Whitaker

**National Executive: Primary Teaching**

Niki Mayo

**National Executive: Support Staff**

Ann Hoglund

**National Executive: Principals**

Louise Green

**National Executive: Te Reo Areare**

Tiri Bailey-Nowell
Te Aroha Hiko
Sophie Short
Finances

NZEI ended 2009 with an operating surplus of $178,121, comparing favourably with the previous year’s operating deficit $158,561. At the end of 2009, NZEI membership was 49,806. No increase in membership subs was recommended for 2011.

Expenditure 2009

The strategic framework will continue to provide the framework for resource allocation in 2011. Expenditure in 2011 likely to be impacted by

- work programmes arising from ratification of CEAs
- the 2011 general election
- inflation and increased costs including ACC and GST increases
- necessary capital expenditure
- the focus of sector strategic plans
- implementing any organisational change.

Te Kāhui Whetu

Miro Māori have been represented on the Primary Teacher, Principals, Support Staff and Kaiarahi i te Reo Collective Agreement negotiation teams during 2009-2010. In terms of Kaiarahi, work is now focused on developing a professional workforce strategy. Work has continued to increase membership in Kōhanga Reo and increase the number of NZEI Te Riu Roa sites to 30%. Member organisers have been provided with recruitment and information resources and leaders have been identified in each rohe to support introductions to Kōhanga sites.

Members have been engaged in consultation and trialling of Ngā Whanaketanga throughout 2010. Work has been done to ensure there is a clear understanding of the separation between Ngā Whanaketanga and the National Standards. There is agreement across the motu that National Standards:

- will discriminate against tamariki Māori
- have not been written from a Māori world view
- have not been trialled
- will label our children "whakaiti" forever
- remove our mana
- do not celebrate our tamariki
- will have no regard for the identity of Māori children and will marginalise the potential of tamariki Māori
- are not based on the reality of what children know and can do because the Standards are aspirational.

Miro Māori members have been actively engaged with conversations on marae, with iwi and in the community as well as taking part in the National Standards bus tour.

Te Reo Areare and the National Executive have been actively engaged in a process of Mahi Tahi to develop awareness and understanding of how NZEI's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi can be maintained and deepened.

**Awards and scholarships**

Every year NZEI gives out a number of awards to recognise those members who have made a standout contribution to the organisation and to education.

The awards were presented at the Awards Dinner during Annual Meeting.

**Honorary Fellow**

The Dean of the University of Otago College of Education, Dr Helen May was made an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Educational Institute. Helen May is a longstanding member of NZEI and a pioneer of early childhood education in New Zealand at both a professional and industrial level. She has provided leadership and professional support in the sector for many years and has been dedicated to working for quality education for teachers, children and families.

**Associate Award**

The Award of Associate of the New Zealand Educational Institute was presented to the following people in recognition of their commitment and service to NZEI and education.

- Margaret Barclay – Waikato
- Ernie Buutveld – Marlborough
- Anna Lee – West Auckland
- Margaret Moss – Auckland
- Jack Reid – Cambridge
- Dora Taitua – Papatoetoe
- Myrtle Terekia – Murihiku
Scholarships
NZEI provides four scholarships annually – two for early childhood and two for support staff members – to carry out research, attend professional conferences or complete qualifications.

Support Staff
Helen Tina – teacher aide – Rotorua
Karyn Ward – teacher aide – Ashley

Early Childhood
Adam Buckingham – kindergarten teacher – North Shore
Joanna Young – kindergarten teacher – North Taranaki

Members' silent protest to Education Minisiter Anne Tolley at Annual Meeting 2010