

Welcome to Week 3 of a very busy term.

Here are some of the issues on top for NZEI this term.

Targeted Funding

Many thanks to those principals who responded to my email with regard to the targeted funding they received in their operational grants for next year.

Some schools report having up to \$19,000 more in the bank than they have had previously. Conversely some schools have about \$10,000 less in the bank. For many schools there is very little difference. The core element of the Minister's proposal is the targeted funding and the 4 criteria to access money. The introduction of targeted funding as the mechanism to deliver money to your schools is aligned with the Minister's repeated criticism of decile funding as the mechanism for delivering equitable funding. However, initial reports indicate that many high decile schools have derived significantly greater benefit from the targeted funding approach than their low decile counterparts.

The beneficiary element of the targeted funding is what you have received notification of for the beginning of next year in your Operations Grant for 2017. Something to consider is, will you access as much funding through the other criteria: a parent having been in prison; a mother with no formal education; a CYF's referral being made? With the future of decile funding uncertain, where will that leave your school.

You will receive the targeted funding based on your July 1st roll return for the following year but that money will ebb and wane as children enrol and leave the school. There will be uncertainty as you don't even know who the children are who are enabling the funding at your school.

The concern about the Minister's proposal for Global Funding still remains. Communities throughout New Zealand have strongly supported the NZEI and PPTA members' demand for this proposal to be scrapped. We urge all schools to continue to engage "Better Funding, Better Learning" campaign.

So ...keep up the momentum of informing your school communities of the impact the Minister's proposal will have on students in the school and lobby any local MP's to raise your concerns as educational professionals.

I am happy to support and work with any clusters that would like to act in some way.

Survey on Funding and School Donations

Further to the information above, NZEI is keen to gather hard data on the impact of the funding freeze and the level of reliance on school donations. Please look out for a survey that will come out with next weeks P2P e-newsletter and take the time to fill it in. We know we ask principals for a lot of information via surveys but we cannot make cases for change without the sort of data that surveys provide.

Our Future

We are asking all principals to consider putting aside some time as part of a teacher only day either at the end of this year or before the first term next year to have a school-based discussion about the work we are doing on career framework development for principals and teachers:- how we want to see our professional values and practice reflected in it and how we can develop new opportunities and concepts to grow our profession.

This is an important conversation and one that needs sufficient time and focus. It is for this reason we are asking you to consider some time as part of your teacher only days-apart from the business of class contact! We will supply resources early in December designed to facilitate approximately an hour long workshop.

With so much change going on in the sector, our voices and views have never been more essential!

We are in the process of setting up a reference group in the Waikato (one of 4 nationwide) to enable active member voice in the career pathway development of the profession.

Support Staff Campaign

Information has been sent to all Support Staff Rep's in schools. They have been asked to facilitate a meeting to discuss the draft claims for their negotiations by November the 11th. The NZEI Field officer for the school will be supporting some WS Reps to do this.

Please support the worksite rep in holding this meeting.

In the claim there is a proposed pay increase but we are demanding that this be a funded increase and that it doesn't come out of existing operations grant money.

These will be tough negotiations so we need all Support Staff members on board and school support for them. Principals can also assist by encouraging support staff employees who are not NZEI members to get on board this important campaign by joining the union. Ultimately, when NZEI does win more secure funding for support staff that will benefit everyone in schools

Health & Well Being Survey

You will have received an invitation to participate in a Principal Health and Well Being Survey. This has been commissioned by NZEI. It is being undertaken by an Australian company, experienced in doing this type of survey, both in Australia and Ireland. Governments in both countries are now beginning to take notice of the results. The survey has been adapted for New Zealand. We urge you to take part. It is completely confidential as the company does not pass on any personal details collected. The survey takes about an hour but you can complete it over multiple sessions.

The results will assist us going forward into the next negotiations and links very closely to the Career Pathway work.

If you believe workload is an issue then please do the survey.

There needs to be at least 400 participants in the survey for it to give meaningful data so please complete it as soon as you can.

U1/U2 Principals

There is a reference group of U1/2 principals looking specifically at the challenges for principals in those schools.

Their work will link into that of the Career Pathway work about to be undertaken.

The results from the Health & Safety Survey can be collated from U1 and U2 Principals which will be very helpful for this work as well.

It is intended the MoE will be lobbied when the group has the information they need.

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Education Act

- The final day for submissions is the 11th November
- You can make a submission on this and other matters on the Education Act Update Bill online here:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/00DBHOH_BILL69778_1/education-update-amendment-bill

Regards

Jackie Nicholl

NZEI Principal Support Officer