



29 March 2018

New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) Submission on the

EDUCATION (TEACHING COUNCIL OF AOTEAROA) AMENDMENT BILL

MEMBER'S BILL

To: Education & Science Select Committee

Personal Details:

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The New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) is the largest professional organisation for lead educators representing the interests of 2,200 Principals of Primary, Intermediate, Area and Secondary Schools. Principals are from public, integrated, special character and independent schools and are spread throughout New Zealand. NZPF aims to be the most influential advocate for school principals to enable high quality, well supported leadership for school learners in New Zealand.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Education Amendment Bill.

Introduction

NZPF welcomes the intent of the Member's Bill which strengthens ownership of the Teaching Council by the profession, emphasises quality leadership, teaching and learning and raises the status of the profession.

Further, we support the amendment that would increase the membership of the Council to thirteen, seven of whom would be elected by the profession, and would include representatives from across all areas of the profession.

We believe that changes made in 2014 were detrimental to the profession. These changes included taking the term 'Teaching' out of the Council's title to replace it with 'Education' and further, taking away the right of the profession to elect their own members. Currently all nine members are appointed by the Minister.

NZPF listed further objections to the 2014 changes including the looseness of the language in the Act frequently interchanging the words teacher and educator. The profession uses

the term 'teacher' to mean a trained teacher registered to teach young people. An educator may work in a school but is not a teacher.

Title of the Governing Board

The Principals' Federation believes that the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand should be changed to the Teaching Council [of Aotearoa New Zealand]. This change would reflect the Council's role as the professional body for teachers, and clearly distance the Council's role from other people who work in schools but are not teachers.

Selection of the Governing Board

The present legislation states that the appointment of the governing body will be made by the Minister who will appoint all nine members of the Council.

This practice undermines ownership by the profession. The process of appointing members threatens the integrity of the representational role of the members. New Zealanders expect processes for establishing public governing bodies to be fully transparent and to follow democratic principles so that stakeholders can be confident that the Board is representative of the profession.

Teachers must not only own the Council in a professional sense but must reach into their pockets and fund it. When there is no confidence in the selection process and no confidence that the members are truly representing their interests, members will be reluctant to pay for their Council's services.

The New Zealand Principals' Federation believes that the only way to achieve professional ownership and support of the Teaching Council is if the Education Act allows the teaching profession to nominate and elect their own representatives.

A truly independent body is then well placed to comment on all matters within its area of interest, without fear or favour, focused purely on what is good for learners.

In summary the NZPF fully supports the changes proposed in the current Bill to change the name of the Council to Teaching Council and introduce an election process so that seven of the thirteen Council members can be democratically elected by the profession.

Yours sincerely

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