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Principals Concerned as Teacher Shortage Bites

Source: NZ Principals Federation

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Principals across the country are expressing concern that the latest moves by Government to stem the teacher shortage won't be enough to fill the vacancies expected for the 2019 year.

The New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) President, Whetu Cormick, said 'I am hearing from more and more stressed principals that they cannot secure teachers for vacancies in their schools.'

Cormick has long pointed out the importance of raising the status of the profession, after a decade of neglect. He has repeatedly suggested a number of factors need addressing including reducing workloads, substantial pay increases, and increased support, especially for severe behavioural issues.

'I accept that this Government has acknowledged that the teacher shortage is a reality across the country and is doing everything it can to address the situation in the short term,' said Cormick.

'Unfortunately, the Ministry has not had a workforce strategy in the past to monitor and plan so that we could be assured of a sustainable workforce for the future. We had no data on which to predict the shortages we are now facing,' he said.

'That will be addressed for the future, but it will take time,' he said.

'Meanwhile we need to ramp up our efforts to fill the vacancies in front of us.'

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