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## PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

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Tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings to you all.

The Special Education Update has slowed up in order to give greater opportunity to the families and providers of special education to have more opportunities to give a view. James Le Marquand, Louise Doyle and I met recently with the Update Manager Tracy Brown and Julie Hook Practice/Implementation Manager to discuss our concerns with the process and the need for systemic change in service delivery. We have been asked to have a representative on the reference group. Louise Doyle will take this role when the reference group is formed. We were impressed with the views of Tracy and Julie. Julie has held the position of principal in a special school in Australia in the past.

It is unlikely the Update will have a significant impact on our schools. We did raise the issue of the Service Standards Review process and suggested this task should be undertaken by ERO as part of its evaluation of schools. If a specialist is required, ERO could simply co-opt such a person into a review team when reviewing a fund holder school. We also questioned the value or benefit added to schools via the Service Standards Review process in its current format.

The registration forms have been promulgated for our SEPAnz Conference November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in Wellington *Leading Special Education*. I encourage you to attend this very worthwhile and well planned professional learning and development for our sector.

I will be on sabbatical from 17<sup>th</sup> August returning on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. In my absence, Louise Doyle will be the spokesperson for SEPAnz and the 'go to' person for any issues your regional representatives cannot assist with.

### Issues that are currently in focus include:

- The recognition for special school principals in regard to the staffing and students in the *Outreach Service* and the need to have principals remunerated appropriately. This matter is being pursued through the NZEI Principals' Council by Barrie Wickens.

- [Social Workers in Schools](#). Special Schools Decile 1 – 3 will be eligible for SWiS. This will be staged in over the next twelve to eighteen months as budget and other (Decile Review) commitments allow.
- [Health & Safety](#). You are no doubt well informed in regard to the expectations under the Act. Judith Nel is our association's representative on the Ministry of Education Reference Group. It is expected that the act will be passed into legislation later this year and implemented in 2016. The Ministry is currently updating its website information to incorporate the changes. We encourage you to review your current procedures against the [Worksafe Schools](#) information on the Ministry website and not to accept an offer from the plethora of organisations who are seeking business from schools
- [Section 9s](#). The review of the Section 9 Agreement has yet to be completed. I have been assured that the matter will be progressed by the Ministry. Section 9s need only be formally reviewed in the year a student turns eighteen years of age.
- [Satellite costs](#). James Le Marquand and Louise Doyle have completed the surveys of special schools and hosts schools on behalf of the Ministry of Education. This piece of work has been generated and is owned by the Ministry. Our sector was asked to be involved in the project, a project that has direct impact on us. The Ministry intend to release a draft report to the sector for consultation and feedback.
- [The SEPAnz website](#) is now live. The new [ClickSpecialED Website](#) has also gone live. I strongly recommend you explore it. The SEPAnz logo on ClickSpecialEd website will link to the SEPAnz website.
- The [Ministry working group](#) 'Illustrating Progress and Achievement in expanded Level One of the New Zealand Curriculum' continues to progress its work. Louise Doyle represents the association on this working group along with two teachers from our sector.
- [Special Schools Professional Development](#) – SEPAnz/NZSTA/Ministry .This PLD day is to be in Auckland on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. The response from principals and board chairs has been excellent. It will be the first time our principals and board members have had an opportunity like this. The intention is not to tell you how to do things rather to challenge your thinking on what you do.
- [Seclusion & Restraint Advisory](#) .The Ministry has formed this advisory to consider guidelines, design specifications and protocols for the use of seclusion and restraint. I have attended several meetings to date representing our association. The outcome



will be a set of guidelines for Seclusion and Restraint. The work is embargoed at this time.

- **National Education Leaders Partnership.** Leaders from the education sector groups have now met on several occasions to discuss the principles that should underpin school resourcing changes and school resourcing delivery. You will be aware that the Minister of Education is seeking a review of school resourcing. This group will request that the Minister supports the NELP to inform Secretary Hughes of the sector's views. In addition the group will consider how it may have input into the Amendments to the Education Act. Many of these recommendations arise from the *Report of the Taskforce on Regulations Affecting School Performance*. Minister Parata has already signalled her interest in: Giving Boards greater flexibility to provide ECE and out of school services, giving boards greater flexibility to set minimum school operating hours, enabling principals to lead more than one school and extending the national student number to be used to support student participation in digital learning environments.
- **Students exhibiting dangerous behaviour:** As you are aware I have raised this issue with Peter Hughes and David Wales in regard to an increasing number of these student in our schools and the challenges we often have in supporting them. Thank you to those of you who made the effort to send me some examples. These will be very useful when I discuss this issue with Peter and David this month.
- **Peter Hughes** has recently invited education leaders to a forum to consider issues that arise at a national level. This group has met for the first time and will meet in the future with Peter as the need arises. I have been invited to be a member of this forum.
- **New Zealand Schools Special Education Colloquium.** You will have received the programme details and the program fee support available. It is a ten month leadership development programme to commence in 2016 that focuses on the critical aspects of effective leadership. I understand from the provider that a 15 member cohort will be the minimum number to run this programme. Contact [jvolwerk@asam.edu.au](mailto:jvolwerk@asam.edu.au) for any further information.

I have been reflecting on my role as your president over the last two terms of office and have been contemplating if we as an organisation need to reflect on our current structure in terms of sustainability in the longer term and the fact that we have many members with knowledge and skills who, given the opportunity, may undertake particular pieces of work on behalf of the association. I will progress this discussion with the membership on my

return. There is no doubt that we need a national association to ensure our voice is heard and respected with government, the Ministry and our mainstream colleagues.

Thank you for the work you do and the commitment you demonstrate for our learners.

I wish you well for the rest of the term.

Ngā mihi nui



**Graeme H Daniel**  
**President**

