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PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

02 NOVEMBER 2014

Tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings to you all.

It has been an interesting year for special education in that the inclusion protagonists continue to lobby for their cause in that all students must have the unfettered right to attend their local school. It is of significance that the Ministry of Education now use the terminology of *inclusive practice* as opposed to inclusion. The Ministry of Education and the Minister of Education continue to support parent choice and have made it quite clear to the Non-Government Organisation's that special schools are simply part of the continuum of education provision in this country as is similar for most western countries across the world.

Interestingly there are also a number of academics who loudly support the range of options that parents who have children with special education needs and disabilities must have. Baroness Warnock and others say, it is the quality of education that students with SEND receive is what should be focused upon, not where they receive their education.

As your president, I make it my business to have our sector well represented with the Non-Government Organisations, the Ministry of Education and the various government forums I have membership of. Minister Parata is very supportive of our sector and the work we undertake with our students and their families.

Issues that are currently in focus by your executive 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. We did manage to secure management units for full time Outreach Teachers last term.
- SESTA – I meet regularly with the Ministry of Education who are progressively introducing the recommendations from the 2014 SESTA Review. Steady progress is being made by the very good team in Wellington.
- Social Workers in Schools. Peter Hughes is investigating why our sector cannot have automatic access to the SWIS service.
- Section 9s. A meeting is to be held in November to review this process. Currently there is an expectation by the Ministry of Education that Section 9 Agreements are reviewed. This is not a requirement of the Education Act and needs to be reviewed.

- The Ministry is investigating the cleaning costs that our schools are faced with when satellite provisions are negotiated with a regular school. I have discussed this matter with National Office personnel following my submitting your cost information to the National Office at my regular meetings with Ministry personnel.
- We are investigating the development of a SEPAnz website. This will have a link to ClickSpecialED and vice versa. Having an independent website will enable the association to have links from Ministry publications.

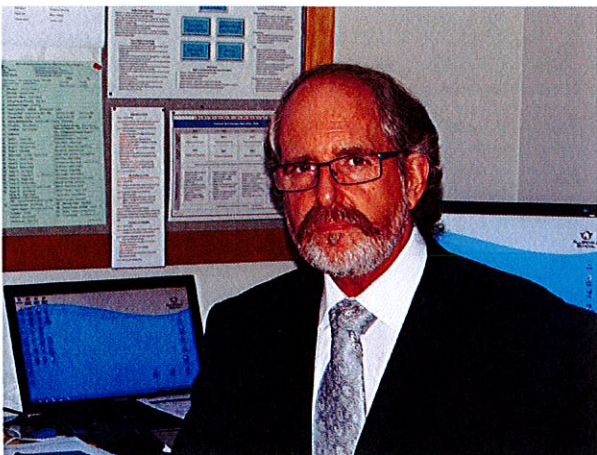
SEPAnz Moot 28th November 2014

If you haven't already registered your interest in attending to Louise Doyle, I encourage you to do so. We will hold our Annual Meeting at this event. We have secured Minister Parata, Secretary Peter Hughes, David Wales Director of Special Education and Judith Nowotarski President of NZEI as speakers. It will be an exceptionally interesting day.

NZPF Special Education Needs Hui

I attended a planning meeting that was held in Wellington. A number of NGOs were present including IHC, CCS Disability Action, IEAG, NZEI and representatives from principals' organisations. The Ministry of Education was also present and encouraged a Hui that would have a restricted number. It was agreed that the Ministry would suggest to the *Education for All Group* that they might wish to steer this process. I understand that the preference of this group was to review the Education Act. The NZPF may consider an alternative pathway.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Wellington on the 28th November.



Ngā mihi nui

Graeme H Daniel