



NZSTA Submission

on

Education (Protecting Teacher Title)
Amendment Bill

Due 13 April 2018

Introduction

1. This feedback is presented by the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) on behalf of its member boards.
2. School boards of trustees are the largest single group of crown entities in the country, accountable directly to the government and their local community for the effective delivery of education in their school.
3. NZSTA is a national body representing the interests of approximately 2,232 member school boards of trustees (92 percent of the total number). There are approximately 18,000 people currently serving on 2,426 state and state integrated school boards.
4. As part of its service delivery function, NZSTA provides a comprehensive support service to school boards of trustees, including free access to employment and governance advisory services, a full range of professional development and access to an 0800 Advisory and Support Centre. NZSTA is also an active party with the Ministry of Education in negotiating Collective Agreements with unions.
5. NZSTA as a membership organisation surveys member boards from time to time on issues of current or potential significance to school boards of trustees.
6. This feedback draws on NZSTA's:
 - ongoing dialogue with individual school boards and principals, and elected board of trustees representatives at local, regional and national levels
 - experience in supporting boards of trustees with governance and accountability issues through our 0800 Advisory and Support Centre, and our national network of professional governance and employment advisers
 - Collective Agreement negotiations
 - formal Professional Development and targeted support for boards of trustees.
7. We can be contacted at NZSTA, PO Box 5123, Wellington, phone 471 6422, fax 473 4706, email lkerr@nzsta.org.nz.
8. We do not wish to appear before the Select Committee.

NZSTA Comment

9. NZSTA supports the intention of this Bill “...to lift the status of teachers by removing the ability of those who have not gained the qualifications above from representing themselves as “teachers” by using that title.” (Explanatory Note, p 1)
10. NZSTA agrees that
 - a. greater clarity about the professional status of persons calling themselves a “teacher” is desirable
 - b. there is a general expectation in the public mind that a person using the professional title of “teacher” is a registered teaching practitioner who is authorised by the Education Council of New Zealand to teach in a New Zealand school
 - c. there are sufficient alternative descriptions available for tutors, instructors who are not teachers.
11. NZSTA seeks clarification of the status of teacher trainees on practicum, or people granted a Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) under this amendment.