

Education Act Updates - Erika Ross Presentation to NPA 11/8/17

The Education Act – an enabling piece of legislation, some is compulsory, a lot of it is not (e.g. cohort entry).

Have a look at the video on MOE website – Alan, Deputy Secretary.

1. Progress and achievement of children and young people at the centre. National Education Learning Priorities (NELP) – a statement of objectives for education – will happen after the election – “will allow the government of the day to set its priorities for education.”
2. Helping schools and kura to focus on achievement. Clarified roles and responsibilities for BOTs. School strategic plans to cover a 4 year period – these go to MOE for their scrutiny. Annual plans will no longer need to be sent to the MOE. A more graduated range of interventions to enable faster, more tailored responses when a school or kura is struggling: MOE no longer has to wait until things get really bad or they are asked to intervene; ‘softer’ options than going to Commissioners and LSMs. *Discussion about the cost of LSMs etc being borne by the school and the financial burden it places on a school: Erika – we have responsibility that taxpayers money is prudently managed.*
Erika’s encouragement is that we contact MOE early if there are problems – they want to see us succeed.
3. Enhancing collaboration within the schooling network. A voluntary framework for the evolution of COLs provided for by provision for COLs to form agreements for greater collaboration.
4. Enrolment and attendance. Two main changes: 1) Act extends requirement for regular attendance at school once a child has begun. 2) Schools can implement cohort entry. Must be considerable consultation prior to this happening. Students can enroll up to 2 months prior to 5th birthday. Transition plans can be developed between schools and ECEs to support school entry up to 6th birthday. First cohort entries can begin term one, 2018.
5. Framework for online learning (Erika says this was initiated by Te Kura after the consultation process and was included accordingly). Allows for provision for COOLs from Jan 2020. Consultation in 2018 on regulations governing these. Erika says consultation will focus on the well-being of students in COOLs.
6. Refocused careers services.
7. Eliminating seclusion and ensuring appropriate physical restraint guidelines. Act prohibits the use of seclusion; the child must know they can leave. *Considerable discussion about the challenges presented by severe behaviour: Erika – the Minister is very focused on this and we will see some actions in this area. The push is going on for more wraparound responses across multiple agencies. Concerns from several principals about the escalation of problems and growing gap between need and provision of support. Erika – “There is some opportunity for us to rejig the funding that is available across the agencies. We’re willing to work with you about how best to use it.”*
Concern about the uncertainty of the future of PB4L: Erika – assurance that it

will continue, we will find out more shortly. Question about restraint training. Erika offers to set up a reference group for learning and behaviour support.

8. A strengthened competence authority in the Ed Council to speed up the complaint process.
9. Improved management of enrolment schemes.
10. Other provisions include:
 - Provisions for offsite locations
 - Minister has power to require combined Boards
 - Streamlining consultation process for closing and merging schools
 - Streamlined process for establishing designated character schools

Feedback

Email: EdAct.Staffinfo@education.govt.nz

Information on STA website

More fact sheets coming out.