



New Zealand
Teachers Council

Te Pouherenga Kaiako o Aotearoa

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

July 2008



Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou
Warm greetings to you all

Council Elections 2008

In March, you were alerted to the elections for four Council representatives that will take place in from 1 September to 1 October 2008. Recently, all registered teachers whose email addresses are recorded at the Council, were sent an 'email alert' about the election. These teachers were invited to choose the vote on-line option. It would be helpful if you as professional leader would reinforce to teachers the importance of taking part in this electoral process to the Teachers Council. We would encourage all of your eligible staff to supply an up-to-date email address through <http://www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz/mailformaddress.stm>

Nominations will open on 9 July 2008 and close on 1 August 2008. You too, of course, will be able to nominate and vote for a 'principal nominee' to the Council. Please refer to our website for additional information and on-going updates about this election.

Attached to this email is further information specifically about the election and the on-line or mail options for the election.

For Teachers Newsletter

Copies of the latest newsletter from the Council will arrive in your school or learning centre very soon. Would you make sure you access a copy for yourself and that one is displayed for teachers to read as this edition has a limited distribution and is not being sent to each individual teacher. Only two of the four issues each year are distributed to all teachers.

I am alerting you to a letter / notice inserted in the newsletter about the consultation that the Council is carrying out with teachers and stakeholders on the draft Registered Teacher Criteria. This is also explained below.

Consultation on revised Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions – the draft Registered Teacher Criteria

As you know, the Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions were developed as the standards or criteria for registration purposes over a decade ago. Over the last 18 months or so, the Council has worked with a reference group and a writing group to revise these criteria to make them fit for purpose in the contemporary and emerging contexts of teaching and learning. The Council also wishes to ensure that the criteria are well understood and consistently applied by teachers and professional leaders when working with and appraising both provisionally registered teachers and teachers renewing practising certificates.

Several drafts have been worked through and discussed in a number of forums and the Council is now seeking wider consultation with the profession on the content of the revised dimensions, currently entitled the draft Registered Teacher Criteria. Further details can be read in the latest *ForTeachers* newsletter.

The two main forms of consultation with teachers and professional leaders are firstly, an online survey of a sample of registered teachers from our database, to be followed up with some focus group discussions. Secondly, we have developed a consultation package for schools and centres to engage in discussion about the criteria and then to provide feedback to the Council.

This consultation package is not being sent to all schools and centres automatically, but only on request. Please email comms@teacherscouncil.govt.nz to register interest in receiving this consultation pack. From August, it will also be available from our website.

The Council hopes that teachers and professional leaders will want to engage seriously in discussions about these criteria. Not only will your feedback be important for shaping the final version, but we believe that the discussion itself is a great opportunity to think about 'what is quality teaching' in each particular setting. In other words, the Council and the Reference Group think the consultation is important professional development for all teachers.

Renew practising certificates early this year

Once again, teachers are reminded that late 2008 is **the** 'peak renewal' period in the three year registration cycle; many teachers' practising certificates will expire this October. A new practising certificate will be dated from the expiry of the current one so any teacher whose practising certificates expires this year should send it in **now** and this will assist efficient processing of the increased numbers. Three months prior to the expiry of a practising certificate reminder notices are sent to the address/email details we have on our database. All teachers whose practising certificates expire in or before October this year have had this reminder information. Teachers need a current practising certificate to be employed in a teaching position and to be eligible to vote in the Council

election.

In Conclusion

I hope you and your teachers are able to spend some of the coming break for schools in rest and recreation. Please feel welcome to be in touch on any issues you may wish to raise with me. You may contact me at peter.lind@teacherscouncil.govt.nz.

Kind regards

Dr Peter Lind
Director