

16 April 2018

**New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) Submission on
ESTABLISHING THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

To: The Ministry of Education

Personal Details:

Agency: New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF)
Designation: National Executive
Address: National Office, PO Box 25380, Wellington 6146

The New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) is the largest professional organisation for lead educators representing the interests of 2,259 Principals of Primary, Intermediate, Area and Secondary Schools. Principals are from public, integrated and independent schools and are spread throughout New Zealand. NZPF aims to be the most influential advocate for school principals to enable high quality, well supported leadership for school learners in New Zealand.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Establishment of the College of Educational Leadership.

Introduction

NZPF has long advocated for the Education Council to raise the status of the Teaching Profession, to provide a well-resourced Advisory Service that all school principals can access and to provide relevant and timely professional learning & development opportunities to increase the capability of our school leaders and ultimately the quality of teaching in our schools. We are also of the view that the mentoring programme for first-time principals requires strengthening and extending so that new leaders are nurtured and supported and not lost to the profession early in their careers. Further, NZPF would welcome the invitation to contribute a view on the development of a minimum qualification for leadership positions.

Currently, there is no single coordinated system to satisfy all these functions. NZPF supports the collective provision of these services through the establishment of a College of Educational Leadership.

Establishing the College in the Education Council

NZPF recognises that the Education Council has already been working on supporting models of leadership in Communities of Learning and has also developed a draft leadership strategy for consultation.

In our view, neither of these activities would qualify the Council to take on the coordination role for the proposed College's activities. Hundreds of members of NZPF have repeatedly

PO Box 25380
Wellington 6146

Level 8 The Bayleys Building
36 Brandon Street

THE MOST RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL ADVOCATE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

ph:+64 4 471 2338
fax:+64 4 471 2339

email: office@nzpf.ac.nz
web: www.nzpf.ac.nz

reported, through survey research, that they do not support the model of leadership within the present Communities of Learning and would not support its continuation. Nor do they support the structure of collectively forming an agreed achievement challenge and an overwhelming majority believe the money would be much better spent on other concerns such as special education.

Given the current context, and with the forthcoming review of *Tomorrow's Schools* we do not believe that the draft Leadership Strategy, developed within the context of Communities of Learning and national standards, is any longer relevant.

That said, we nevertheless see a place for the College within the Council's jurisdiction. We recognise the capability of the Council to deliver on leadership initiatives, and as a body that is independent of Government and funded by the profession, we envisage that the College would welcome the involvement of the profession in the design and delivery of programmes.

In answer to the objection that the Council does not have a regional presence, our answer is to say that NZPF does, through the regional principals' association networks. We would expect that services, such as the Leadership Advisory Service, currently contracted out to Evaluation Associates, would be brought into the College and resourced through the Council. This is a service that was designed by NZPF, for principals, by principals. Regional Associations, along with NZPF already have an important influence on the appointment process and we would expect in future that we could be called on to shoulder further responsibilities in the design and delivery of both the leadership advisory service and professional learning and development initiatives for leaders.

In summary, NZPF believes that to raise the status of the profession, provide appropriate and timely professional learning & development for principals and a relevant and credible leadership advisory service, requires strong partnership with the profession. It is our belief that such a partnership is best delivered through a College of Educational Leadership, residing within the Teaching Council.

Ngā manaakitanga

Whetu Cormick
PRESIDENT
NZPF
whetu@nzpf.ac.nz

PO Box 25380
Wellington 6146

Level 8 The Bayleys Building
36 Brandon Street

THE MOST RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL ADVOCATE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

ph:+64 4 471 2338
fax:+64 4 471 2339

email: office@nzpf.ac.nz
web: www.nzpf.ac.nz