

47th Annual NZCA Conference & AGM

Kōrero session notes

KŌRERO SESSION THREE – Implications of the budget 2010

Provocateurs: Wendy Logan and Jan Taouma

Facilitator: Nancy Bell

Note taker: John Diggins

We are sad and annoyed about lack of recognition for ece. There has been a long struggle over many years to get trained, registered and obtain pay parity. Spiralling.

Why can we as a country not have a fully trained and qualified ece workforce? The Ministry of Education says there is no evidence 100% qualified staff make any difference. We were waiting to see the impact of 100% trained staff in NZ.

MP today (Colin King) saying we need participation in quality education centres. Everyone IS angry about it.

Write to your MP's to express disappointment.

We didn't challenge Colin King, but Nancy advised other MP's who come have said they won't come back.

We need to picket MP's at their offices 'political agitation'.

Wendy – Three centres with 100% qualified staff will be down \$50k. Will have to hit parents for extra \$\$ or lay off trained staff. I really like the Facebook page. MP's will look at this.

We need to plan to get through this – bulk buying, cost saving, partnerships.

Services need to combine together with parents to express dissatisfaction with the cuts to funding and the requirement for qualified teachers.

Nancy – there is no commitment to legislation on 80%, National are not interested in the sector view. Bill English 'hasn't finished with the sector yet'. Petitions to parliament – have to be read out in parliament. Anne Tolley thinks the sector is awash with money.

Most places have already decided they have to put up fees

Opinion: June – Nov must have 80% of trained teachers to access the 80% funding band from next year onwards. This traps centres that can't get to 80% by November, so those who plan to get there by end of December will be stuck in the 50% funding band forever – until there is a policy change. Then from November you must maintain 80% or you could risk falling out of this funding band.

Meg – education discussion document, 'A vision for the teaching profession,' has a 6/8/10 close date. www.beehive.govt.nz

'ECE teachers are not part of the teaching profession.' NZEI website, tools to understand the document. National do not believe a teacher is a teacher. They will never head to pay parity. NAT policy – before and after school care has also been attacked. Women on DPB can look after kids after school and during the holidays. We must fight for kids and we must band together with other providers to fight for children's education. We are not in competition with our neighbours on this aspect. Only positive aspect is that all ece providers are now allied together. Invite people from the five nearest centres to yours and discuss the implications. There is a concern that some centres are unaware of the impact of these changes. 7.30pm on Sunday on National Radio – Insight programme, cuts on quality for children.

Nancy – we want members to tell us what it means for their centres. The basic principle is that children need qualified teachers.

Community newspapers are a great way to get free media.

Keep on with Facebook, it is working well.

Local MP's not aware of detail behind policy, so when shot down; they have no idea why people are so angry.

There is no research to show differences between 50% trained and 80% trained teachers, but people who vote don't care about research, it just feels right to have trained teachers.

Exit interview of why you leave the centre could provide data that they can't afford it. So why spend money that you have taken from those in ece to get people who are not in ece into ece.

We use the word 'qualified' teachers without telling parents what a qualified teacher is. It is three years training, not a weekend.

Data on negative aspects of this change is very important and then providing it to parents in a clear and concise manner.

Start sending letters to parliament as they must be counted each day. The fire-fighters did this 10 years ago and the media will pick up on it.

One centre in Blenheim sent a letter to parents explaining what would happen with the cuts and what qualified teachers meant. This was a very personal letter, talked about a couple of teachers who just qualified who may have to be made redundant and there was a small slip where parents could comment. Parents commented on what trained teachers meant to them – the centre was inundated with responses that were put on the wall to motivate staff.