

30 August 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for Education
Private Bag 18041
Wellington 6160



Matatū. Tū Mataora.
Stand tall. Shape the future.

Tēnā koe e te Minita o Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

E tino hiahia ana mātou o Matatū Aotearoa ki te mihi atū ki a koe i tēnei ahuatanga o te wā, nāu i tu tautoko ake ngā kaupapa o te Ao kaiako kei waenganui i te mate karauna kia noho haumarū tātau katoa.

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 2021 setting out your expectations of the Council in a very clear way. We'd also like to thank you for meeting with us last week, and your ongoing support of Rauhuia | Leadership Space. It is helpful to have clarity about funding the delivery functions of our leadership work.

We understand the importance of having the backing and ownership of the profession and values your support as Minister for Education. We're passionate about the role of the Council in Aotearoa New Zealand's education eco-system, including developing and maintaining positive relationships with others in that system for the benefit of both our kaiako and tamariki.

We agree with you on the issues you raise in your letter. The Governing Council unanimously agreed on Thursday last week, following the Select Committee hearing, to fully re-consult on any possible fees increases in the future. We acknowledge that our previous consultation with the profession on fee setting could have been done better and wish to express our sincere apology to you and to the teaching profession.

The Council acknowledges that an apology must be backed by action and so our approach to the next fees consultation will need to be very different. Our intention is to invite the peak bodies and unions to co-design a new consultation process to ensure all voices are heard. We will include a very clear breakdown of fees, so the profession fully understands the working streams of the Teaching Council and where its costs lie. We already have meetings booked with both NZEI and the PPTA this week to start this conversation.

We think the Māori proverb 'ka mua, ka muri', walking backwards into the future, can help guide the Council as we work to build productive, enduring relationships and trust with the sector. We will gain more clarity on the direction of not only our work and how it is done, but also on the views of others who are equally passionate about our role as a professional body.

Once again, we value our relationship with you and appreciate your frank feedback and your support of our work, including Rauhuia | Leadership Space. Please let us know if you need more information.

E kore e mutu ngā mihi ki a koe mō ou ringa tautoko i ngā mārāma me ngā tau kua pāhuri ake nei. Tēnā, Whakapā mai ki a mātau, ne i he take, ne i he pātai kei te rae.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Ngarewa'.

Nicola Ngarewa
Teaching Governing Council Chair, Spotswood College Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hoskin'.

Lesley Hoskin
Chief Executive