Member Access, Standardising Delegate Support

A PAPER FROM THE PPTA WAIKATO, WELLINGTON, and WAITAHA-CANTERBURY REGION



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FILE NUMBER: G/AC/2026/CP/UPDATED POST CONF

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.

2. That the Association establish a policy ensuring equitable regional representation at all national PPTA-run conferences, including but not limited to:

    - Māori Teachers' Conference
    - NETs (Network of Establishing Teachers) Conference
    - Pasifika Fono

3. That for each of the aforementioned conferences, the Association shall fund a minimum of one (1) delegate per region.

4. That "Association-funded" shall include the full cost of:

    - Return travel to the conference venue;
    - Provision of suitable accommodation for the duration of the conference; and
    - All meals associated with conference attendance.

5. That the selection of these funded delegates be managed by each Regional Sub-Committee.

1. Introduction

1.1. This paper proposes a formalisation of funding for regional delegates to attend national PPTA conferences. It seeks to align the attendance model of key national hui, such as the Māori Teachers' Conference, NETS, and Pasifika Fono, with the established model used for the Annual Conference.

1.2. Currently, attendance at these conferences often depends on the financial strength of individual regions or the ability of individual members to self-fund. This creates an inequitable system where some regions are under-represented in vital national kōrero, or are required to fund attendees at the detriment of other planned expenditure.

2. Background

2.1. PPTA Te Wehengarua prides itself on being a democratic and inclusive professional association. Our strength lies in our ability to bring diverse voices together to shape the future of secondary education in Aotearoa.

2.2. While Annual Conference has a robust system for ensuring every region is represented through funded delegates, other significant national conferences operate on more ad-hoc funding arrangements.

2.3. For many members the cost of travel and accommodation is a significant barrier to participation.

3. The Proposal

3.1. It is proposed that the "Annual Conference Model" of delegate funding be extended to all major national conferences. This ensures a baseline of at least one regional delegate (minimum of one from each PPTA region) whose costs are covered centrally by the Association.

3.2. By funding at least one delegate per region, we ensure that the insights and decisions from these conferences are carried back to every corner of the motu, rather than remaining siloed within the regions closest to the conference venue.

4. Rationale

4.1. Ensuring Equity and Inclusion: To truly be an inclusive association where "all members belong," we must remove the financial barriers that prevent members from regions with barriers from attending national events.

4.2. Regional Strengthening: A funded delegate has a clear mandate to represent their region and a responsibility to report back. This strengthens the connection

between national groups (such as Māori and Pasifika members) and their local regional committees.

4.3. Consistency in Governance: There is no clear reason why certain national conferences should be less accessible than others. Standardising the funding model provides certainty for regional financial liaisons and ensures a "rigorous democratic process" across all Association activities.

4.4. Investing in the Future: Conferences like NETS are critical for the induction and retention of activists new and experienced. Ensuring every region can send at least one new teacher to this conference is an investment in the long-term leadership of the PPTA.