



# Constitutional Amendment

*A paper from Executive*

## Branches where a school operates on separate sites in two or more regions

### 1 Proposed amendment

- 1.1 Executive will be proposing that Rule 14(i) of the Constitution be amended to read:

*“There shall not be more than one Branch at any one school except where a school operates on separate sites in two or more geographical regions as defined in Rule 21(i), in which case those separate sites shall be deemed Branches of the Region in which they are situated and the members of those Branches shall also be deemed members of the appropriate respective Electoral Areas as constituted by Rule 62(i) thereof.”*

- 1.2 Rule 14(i) currently reads:

*“There shall not be more than one branch at any one school.”*

### 2 Rationale

- 2.1 The formation of a branch at each school at which members work is the foundation block upon which democracy, strength and commitment within the Association is built. The branch becomes the vehicle by which members can have professional and industrial influence within their workplaces. It is also the means by which members can engage with and participate in democratic processes and decision-making within the Association as a whole.
- 2.2 At the time Rule 14(i) was written, the experience and expectation was that in any given geographic area there would be only one school. In recent years, however, that experience and expectation has changed. A prime example is that of Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (The Correspondence School). While it always had a district presence those few people in outlying areas were very much part of the control structure of the school, based in Wellington. That has changed dramatically as a consequence of successive reorganisations of the school. Now, Te Kura has a significant presence in different parts of the country which, although administered from the Wellington ‘head office’, are semi-autonomous in nature.
- 2.3 Te Kura is not the only example. Other schools that support or cater to national needs (for example health, or care and protection) are now beginning to operate from campuses in more than one geographical area. This trend is expected to continue.



- 2.4 As a consequence of these structural changes, members at those separate sites are effectively denied the right to form a branch, participate in the affairs of the region in which they are situated, or participate in major decision-making processes such as electing the Executive and President or voting to ratify (or not) a collective agreement.
- 2.5 While certain administrative cures have been put in place to give those members a voice, they can only be regarded as temporary and insufficient. A long-term constitutional remedy is required. The proposed amendment seeks to achieve this.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the report be received.
2. That Rule 14(i) of the Constitution be amended to read:

*“There shall not be more than one Branch at any one school except where a school operates on separate sites in two or more geographical regions as defined in Rule 21(i), in which case those separate sites shall be deemed Branches of the Region in which they are situated and the members of those Branches shall also be deemed members of the appropriate respective Electoral Areas as constituted by Rule 62(i) thereof.”*