



Class size: report to Annual Conference 2007

Prepared by Executive

Annual Conference 2006 requested a report back on progress on class size issues.

Since 2006 PPTA has analysed data collected from secondary schools, commissioned research into parental expectations on class size and analysed the literature available on class sizes in secondary schools (both the good and the bad).

It was hoped that this report would be able to describe progress made in the curriculum staffing work stream. Unfortunately the work stream broke down almost immediately because of the Minister's refusal to allow recommendations that had staffing implications and the refusal of the ministry (almost certainly consequential) to agree to a definition of what constituted staffing for the curriculum.

Class size reduction and controls therefore have become a campaign issue and with this in mind this report on class size in New Zealand is prepared as a PowerPoint that branches can eventually use. It includes many aspects of the technical material that we had hoped could be presented to the curriculum staffing work stream.

At the time this report is prepared the slide show is still in development, as more research material continues to become available, and the final version of will be presented to conference.

The PowerPoint covers:

- differences between actual class size and measurements of average class sizes or student: teacher ratios;
- parent and teacher wishes in relation to class size;
- problems with classes which are too large;
- advantages of smaller class sizes for students, teachers and schools;
- actual class sizes found in New Zealand schools;
- research references to positive correlations between reduced secondary school class size and positive students outcomes;
- common flaws in research, meta-analyses and reviews which are used to suggest that smaller class sizes do not have a positive outcome for students.

A literature list relating to class size and analytical techniques is appended.



Class size literature references

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