

By David

I am a New Zealand trained teacher who was lured over the Tasman by the need to live in a country that respects and values education.

Throughout Australia, various levels of government are injecting over \$16 Billion into schools in a program called the Building Education Revolution. We have new halls, gyms and state of the art classrooms in our public schools.

The Digital Education Revolution (valued at over \$2 Billion) is delivering laptops, broadband and essential ICT services to schools – often resulting in a ratio of 1 computer to one student.

As a teacher in Australia I feel empowered by salaries that can surpass \$80,000 per year (although this is still inadequate) and the security of ongoing professional development from a well-organised State Government.

One day I would love to return to my homeland of New Zealand, and see my family live the Kiwi childhoods that my wife and I enjoyed whilst growing up.

There really is no place like New Zealand – believe me.

But the idea of returning to teach in New Zealand is laughable.

I am not prepared to sacrifice my career and all that I have worked for to live as an undervalued, overworked educator living on a pauper's wage.

Don't give in to the insulting and belittling rhetoric of John Key and Anne Tolley. It is time for the teachers of New Zealand to stand up for what is fair.

So from one former member of PPTA to those who have done the right thing and continue to believe in the New Zealand educational system, I have one request. Please don't back down.

Keep fighting for the pay and conditions that our profession requires to thrive.

Kia kaha!

