



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

21 July 2009

National Office

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CEO 09/478

Kate Gainsford
President
NZ Post Primary Teachers' Assn
P O Box 2119
Wellington 6140

Dear Kate

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2009 regarding the surplus staffing costs for employees covered by the *Adult and Community Education in Schools (ACE) Collective Agreement*.

As you will be aware, school-based adult and community education (ACE) programmes have been funded by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) since 2003. Following Budget 09, the TEC has been communicating with schools about the funding changes to school-based ACE programmes from 2010 through its website www.tec.govt.nz. Information and advice is also being provided by the TEC about managing through 2009 and the process for seeking funding in 2010.

I am confident that schools will work through any employment related matters that may arise, including consultation with any applicable parties as appropriate. School boards can seek advice and support from the New Zealand School Trustees Association, through its regional Industrial Advisers.

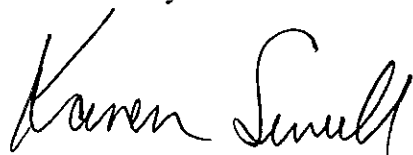
The TEC has advised schools that any costs associated with phasing down or ending ACE programmes may be covered from the funding received for ACE during 2009 (or from ACE funding that has previously been carried forward into the 2009 year). Schools should contact the TEC Service Centre when costs are likely to be greater than the funding available. This will enable the TEC to liaise with schools on a case by case basis.

The Ministry has provided information in relation to a PPTA request under s34 of the Employment Relations Act 2000. It would be inappropriate of me to engage any further on this issue given it is a bargaining matter. However, I understand that when the information was provided, the Ministry outlined to your advocate the limitations of the payroll data to identify community education employees.

I understand this is a time of uncertainty for your members as schools work through their processes to understand the impact of funding changes on ACE programmes and on the people employed to deliver and support the ACE provision in schools.

If there is anything further I can do to assist during this process please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Sewell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".

Karen Sewell
Secretary for Education