Template Letter 2: Writing to a Coalition MP or Minister

The goal of writing to a government MP or Minister (from National, Act or New Zealand First) is to put pressure on them to resolve the collective agreement negotiations in a fair and timely manner.

It is important to tell personalise this letter and tell your story. This is more powerful and more persuasive than sticking to the facts.

Tēnā koe [MP or Minister’s name]

My name is [Your name] and I am a teacher of [subjects/roles] at [school].

I am writing to express concern and disappointment at the progress of the Secondary Teachers’ Collective Agreement negotiations. Schools create communities and provide opportunities for our students, and teachers are an essential part of that mahi. It is important that teachers are paid fairly for the work they do, and are resourced to meet the growing needs of our students.

[Your story here – add a few sentences about how the cost of living crisis is affecting you, what mental health and pastoral care needs you are seeing in your classrooms, the workload challenges of constant curriculum and assessment changes, or whatever issue you feel most passionate about]

Offers to date have not addressed any of these issues. The pay offer was not enough to address the teacher supply crisis, and there were no offers for time allowances for teachers to address students’ pastoral care needs, or any professional learning resourcing to help teachers keep up with the rapid changes in curriculum and technology.

Our rangitahi deserve better than this.

Nāku noa, nā

[Your name]