Template Letter 1: Writing to an Opposition MP

The goal of writing to an opposition MP (one from Labour, Greens or Te Pāti Māori) is to ask them to support teachers during collective agreement negotiations, specifically to sign the Pledge for Public Education, and generally to make sure they know that education is a key issue for voters.

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’s name]

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

I am writing to ask for your support for secondary teachers as we are negotiating our collective agreement. 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, which is why we made the difficult decision to strike this month. We may also need to engage in other industrial action, such as rostering year levels home, if negotiations don’t improve. We are asking you for your support of our campaign in traditional media and social media. You can find our key messages and digital resources on the PPTA website: <ppta.org.nz>

We also ask that you sign and share our Pledge for Public Education. You can find it at [https://www.together.org.nz/stand\_with\_teachers\_for\_quality\_public\_education](https://www.together.org.nz/stand_with_teachers_for_quality_public_education%20)

If you have any questions or suggestions for how you could further support our campaign, please contact me at [your details here]

Thank you in advance,

Nāku noa, nā

[Your name]