



**SUBMISSION**

**to the**

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**

**on**

**THE EDUCATION (TEACHING COUNCIL OF AOTEAROA)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

**March 2018**

## **About PPTA**

1. PPTA represents the majority of teachers engaged in secondary education in New Zealand, including secondary teachers, principals, and manual and technology teachers.
2. Under our constitution, all PPTA activity is guided by the following objectives:
  - (a) To advance the cause of education generally and of all phases of secondary and technical education in particular;
  - (b) To uphold and maintain the just claims of its members individually and collectively; and
  - (c) To affirm and advance Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

## **3. General Comments**

- 3.1.** PPTA is supportive of this legislation, as it puts teachers back on par with other professionals, like lawyers, doctors and nurses, who elect their own representatives to their professional bodies.
- 3.2.** The process of changing the name from Education Council to Teaching Council is a further small, but symbolic, step towards recognising teachers as partners in the leadership of the Council.
- 3.3.** The previous legislation, which removed elected teacher representation, was a body blow to the profession and created a great deal of ill feeling leading to thousands of teacher submissions to the select committee at the time.

## **4. Name change - Teaching Council**

- 4.1.** Renaming the Education Council as the Teaching Council of Aotearoa (Teaching Council) will strike an immediate chord with teachers. PPTA believes that the new name better identifies the purpose of the teachers' professional registration body.
- 4.2.** Teachers have never related to the name Education Council, finding it quite objectionable. The shift from "teachers" to "education" was seen by our members as a shift away from valuing the work of teachers.
- 4.3.** A teacher registration body is not about the whole process of education. It is primarily about controlling entry to, and exit from, the teaching profession.
- 4.4.** Other teacher registration bodies across the world are much more precise about their role in their choice of name: The General Teaching Council for Scotland, the Victorian Institute of Teaching, the New South Wales Institute of Teachers,

the Queensland College of Teachers, and the Ontario College of Teachers, to name but a few. All of these bodies use the term ‘teachers’ or ‘teaching’ to reflect their role.

- 4.5. We expect teachers to relate to the new name, and this will help improve relationships between teachers and the Teaching Council, relationships which have in recent times been less than positive.

## **5. Composition of the Council**

- 5.1. Having elected, and therefore representative, teacher voices on the Council of the Teaching Council gives it access to an understanding of the complexity of teaching, to the needs of the profession, and to the environment within which teachers work. These voices will be balanced by Ministerial appointees who reflect the public interest.
- 5.2. We support having a teacher representative on the Council from each sector, elected by that sector, as this will ensure that early childhood, primary and secondary teachers’ issues are all represented.

### **Union nominees**

- 5.3. PPTA believes that having union nominees, as were included on the Teachers Council, would make the Council even more robust. PPTA represents the majority of secondary teachers, and we are seen as both the industrial and professional voice of our members. We are focused on advancing the cause of education and representing the needs and concerns of teachers and the students with whom we work.
- 5.4. Removing PPTA’s ability to nominate a member onto the previous Teachers Council was seen as an attack on both the union movement and the teaching profession.
- 5.5. While the union nominees would be serving as individuals, they will have access to their unions’ networks to canvas teacher opinion or to elicit wider feedback on Council decisions or performance, should they wish.

### **Principal and other representation**

- 5.6. PPTA supports the inclusion of two principals, (one primary, one secondary) and an ECE head teacher/senior teacher/supervisor, elected by their peers from their sector. Again this ensures fair representation, and acknowledges that principals

and ECE leaders bring an additional set of skills, knowledge and experiences to the Council.

- 5.7.** We also support the inclusion of an educator representing registered teachers working in the fields of initial teacher education and on-going teacher education. We think representation from this sector, given their key role in influencing newcomers to the profession and supporting existing teachers, is very important.
- 5.8.** We think that having a balance of 6 Ministerial appointees, 7 elected teachers and 2 union nominees would send a clear message to teachers: this is your professional registration body.

## **6. Chairperson**

PPTA welcomes the fact that the Minister will consider both elected members and ministerial appointees when appointing the chairperson. Again this is another opportunity to show teachers that this is their organisation.

## **7. Other aspects of the Bill**

The PPTA supports two other details of the bill - the staggered turnover to maintain stability, and the 3-year tenure to provide continuity.

## **Recommendations**

That the Bill be amended to allow for union nominees by providing two additional positions on the Council, one nominated by PPTA and the other by NZEI.