

3 February 2020

Secretariat
Education and Workforce Committee
Select Committee Office
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6011

By email: ew@parliament.govt.nz

RE: EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on this Bill.

I object to boards being required to ensure their plans, policies and curriculum reflect tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori. The following are examples of passages which I recommend be removed or amended:

- **Objective 4** - requiring boards to give effect to Te Tiriti by working to ensure that their plans, policies, and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori.
- Also, **Section 122(1)(d)**, which provides that one of a board's primary objectives in governing a school is to ensure that the school gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi including by— working to ensure that its plans, policies and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori.

Reason for my objection: These rules would impose unspecified Māori cultural values on our children and young people to further the interests of just one of the population's several ethnic groups, and without regard for the rights of individuals or society as a whole. In a modern heterogeneous society people should have the right to choose their own cultural identity, and not have the cultural values of one group imposed upon them.

I recommend the requirement outlined in Objective 4 be optional, and only implemented if it cannot harm the educational performance and well-being of all the students, and after consulting with and gaining the expressed consent of the whole school community.

I object to:

Section 6 - which enables the Ministers of Education and Māori-Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, after consultation with Māori, to jointly issue a statement specifying what education agencies must do to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi expectations in the Public Service Legislation Bill.

The reason for my objection. The likely outcome will be that education providers would be required to give effect to measures outlined in the Statement that serve the interests of just one of the population's several ethnic groups, whether or not the requirements are in the best interests of other children and young people, and the wider community, e.g. parents, teachers and taxpayers.

I recommend that any statement specifying what education agencies must do to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi expectations should undergo a full democratic process, including scrutiny by Parliament.

I also object to other passages in the bill requiring educational agencies and boards to recognise a partnership principle under Tiriti o Waitangi. The following are examples of passages which I recommend be removed or amended:

- **clause 449(4)(b)(v)**, which provides that when considering whether to appoint a member of the Teaching Council, the Minister must have regard to the collective skills, experience, and knowledge making up the overall composition of the Teaching Council, including understanding of the partnership principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- **clause 261(1)(b)** - which provides that councils of institutions have a duty, in the performance of their functions and the exercise of their powers, to acknowledge the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- **Schedule 13 NZIST's charter** which stipulates that the NZIST must operate in a way that allows it to reflect Māori-Crown partnerships.

Reason for my objection. Nowhere in the Treaty does it mention "partnership" or "principles". Instead, and at complete odds with the partnership principle, article the third states:

"In consideration thereof Her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand Her royal protection and imparts to them all the Rights and Privileges of British Subjects".

Therefore, I recommend that any reference to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi be removed from the bill, and the term "partnerships" be replaced with the word "relationships".

I suggest all race-based provisions be removed from the Bill, and instead the Government focus on providing first world, quality education to all New Zealanders, no matter their identity or ancestry.

Thank you.