

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



6 September 2021

Nicola Ngarewa
Board Chair
Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

Ref: CH7823

Lesley Hoskin
Chief Executive
Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

IN CONFIDENCE: TEACHING COUNCIL LEADERSHIP FUNCTIONS

Dear Nicola and Lesley

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2021. I was gratified and reassured by the courses of action you have outlined.

I have also given further consideration to the practicalities and controversies with regard to the placement and financing of the Council's leadership functions since we met on 24th August 2021 and since my letter to you of 27 August 2021.

On the one hand, I am aware that a significant portion of the teaching profession opposes their registration and practicing certificate fees being used to cover costs relating to leadership development functions. This was reflected in submissions on the Education and Training (Teaching Council Fees and Costs) Amendment Bill (the Bill).

At the same time, I know there is also significant support within the profession for Rauhuia | Leadership Space, and the process undertaken to establish it.

In this context, I have come to a decision on a way forward.

I intend to bring forward an amendment in the Bill to differentiate the leadership development aspects of the Council's functions from its other functions that support all teachers.

This differentiation would mean that the leadership aspects of the functions become optional for the Council, and would only be undertaken with agreement of the Minister.

The funding for these professional leadership aspects will come from the Government, while all other functions will be funded by the Council through its powers to set fees.

I intend to introduce a Supplementary Order Paper at the Committee of the whole House to amend the Bill. I have written to the Education and Workforce Committee to advise them of this and I anticipate that they may make mention of my intended amendment when they report the Bill back to the House shortly. I would appreciate it if you would avoid communicating publicly or with the profession about this change until the Committee has made it public.

This amendment would have important implications for the Council. It will affect the nature and content of the consultation you undertake about fee-setting once the Bill is passed. You will also want to engage with the Ministry of Education about the practicalities of continued Government funding for the leadership function at its current levels of support. I would welcome a discussion about these arrangements with the Council and the Ministry at one of my regular meetings with Education agencies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written in a cursive style.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education