

## **Guidelines for the Media and Public**

### **Introduction**

From 1 July 2014, hearings in the Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal will generally be open to the public and the media.

Hearings of the Tribunal often involve children, young people and vulnerable witnesses, giving evidence which includes sensitive information. It is important that these witnesses are protected.

It is also important that members of the public and media attending hearings do not interfere with Tribunal proceedings.

In order to ensure the protection of vulnerable witnesses and the integrity of Tribunal hearings, these guidelines have been developed.

These guidelines are issued pursuant to rule 26 of the New Zealand Teachers Council (Conduct) Rules 2004.

These guidelines are subject to Tribunal orders and directions (oral and written) relating to particular cases. It is expected that in certain types of cases the Tribunal will make an interim suppression order suppressing all details until the hearing has concluded.

### **General**

Members of the public and media may only attend hearings that are open to the public. Occasionally, hearings or parts of hearings may be held in private, which means that members of the public and media may not attend.

Any member of the public or media who attends a hearing must ensure that at all times they are as unobtrusive as possible and do not interfere in any way with the hearing.

People who attend a hearing must be suitably dressed, and may not eat or drink during a hearing. They are to stand when Tribunal members enter and leave the hearing room, and remain as quiet as possible during the hearing.

Mobile phones are to be switched off during hearings.

### **Recording, Photography and Filming**

Any recording, photography or filming of hearings is at the discretion of the Chairperson. If the Chairperson allows recording, photography or filming, then the standard conditions are outlined below. The Chairperson may impose additional restrictions.

Anyone who wishes to record, photograph or film during a hearing must apply in writing to the Tribunal Coordinator. Ideally, 10 working days' notice should be given. The Coordinator will refer any application to the parties involved in the hearing, who will have three working days to provide a response. If any party opposes the application, they must give reasons.

The Chairperson will consider the application and any responses and decide whether to grant the application.

At any stage, the Chairperson or Tribunal may revoke approval or impose further restrictions.

### **Standard Conditions for Recording and Photography**

Information that has been recorded (whether in writing, electronically, by photograph, film or any other means) must not be published until at least one hour after the recording.

Members of the public must not be photographed.

Papers belonging to any party or to counsel or advocates must not be photographed, recorded or filmed.

Witnesses may only be photographed or recorded with the approval of the Chairperson.

Every effort is to be made to ensure that private conversations between counsel or advocates and their clients or witnesses, or those between members of the Tribunal are not recorded. Any inadvertent recordings are not to be broadcast or otherwise published.

### **Standard Conditions for Filming**

Depending on the capacity of the hearing room, there may be occasions where only one film camera may be in a hearing. If there is a dispute as to whose camera will be in the hearing, the dispute will be resolved by the Tribunal Chairperson.

The camera is to be situated in a position approved by the Chairperson. Any operation of the camera, or instructions to the operator, must be as unobtrusive as possible and is not to interfere in any way with the hearing.

Filming is not to occur unless the Tribunal is present.

Members of the public must not be filmed or be in view.

Witnesses may only be filmed with the approval of the Chairperson.

Dated at Wellington this        day of        2014

Kenneth Johnston  
Chairperson  
New Zealand Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal