



60 Raroa Terrace, Tawa,
Wellington 5028

P: (04) 232 6445
E: office@greenacres.school.nz
W: greenacres.school.nz

27 May 2019

Dear parents and caregivers,

As you are aware from the media, NZEI members are currently in negotiations with the Ministry of Education around conditions for teachers. At the heart of our claim is the need for the government to adequately fund teaching by providing adequate resourcing to ensure teachers can do their job in growing our children.

We agree with the strong sentiments within the Primary and Secondary sector that our profession is in crisis. We are losing experienced teachers from the profession to better-paid jobs which have less stress and require fewer hours of work, or to overseas posts with much more attractive pay and conditions. Fewer people are opting to train to be teachers and as a result, we are seeing major teacher shortages nationwide.

In addition to the teacher staffing crisis, there is a serious under-resourcing in schools for children with additional learning and behaviour needs. As the number of children presenting with these needs increases, the demand for teacher time and resourcing is becoming untenable. We are asking the government to recognise the increasing need for additional support and funding to ensure the teaching and learning needs for all students are met.

As professionals, we are also concerned that the government is not prepared to recognise pay parity with our secondary school counterparts. We believe our roles are worthy of the same pay recognition and conditions, both monetarily and in classroom release provisions.

The decision to strike has not been taken lightly. Teachers want to be in the classroom teaching their students, however, we believe that this is necessary to help address the needs in our profession nationwide. We are campaigning with teachers from across the country, many of whom face far more challenging classroom conditions than we do at Greenacres School.

We appreciate the messages of support shared with us and invite you to share with us as we March on Parliament on our strike day or by writing to your local MP, Chris Hipkins, and other members of parliament. If you would like to talk to us about our claim or how you can support us, please get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Kind Regards

Greenacres Teachers