

ISNZ Newsletter

Government and Parliament

Aspire Scholarships Scheme

On September 16 2009 Associate Minister of Education Heather Roy officially opened applications for the government's new Aspire Scholarships, designed to enable students from low-income homes to attend an independent secondary school.

Students can apply for a scholarship by downloading an application form from www.minedu.govt.nz.

Applications closed on 14 October for the first ballot, and 28 October for the second, for one of 150 Aspire Scholarships – 50 in Years 9, 10 and 11 – for the 2010 academic year. The scholarships will fund recipients' study for the entire time that they are at the school, providing up to \$15,000 per year for school fees and an annual allowance of \$1,500 to cover the cost of such school-related costs as uniforms and school trips.

To be eligible to apply, students must:

- Apply by 14 October or 27 October 2009
- Come from a household that has an annual income of less than \$65,000 and a net worth of less than \$150,000
- Have a supporting letter from their current school principal
- Have a letter from another referee – such as a family friend or church member
- To ensure fairness, all eligible applications will be placed into a randomly selected ballot – two of which will be held this year: one after the first close-off date of 14 October, and the second after the final close-off date of 28 October. Successful applicants can then apply to the private school of their choice.

Hon Heather Roy has asked the Ministry to set up a panel made up of a principal, a community representative and a Ministry staff member. The role of the panel will be to discuss any applications that are questionable for whatever reason, and to validate and ratify all applications that the Ministry has accepted for inclusion. The Ministry will then draw 75 eligible applications from the ballot. The Ministry has invited Peter Clague, Executive Principal, Kristin School to sit on the panel. Ian MacKinnon, past Headmaster of Scots College, will also sit on the panel. The panel met for the first time on 30 October.

The Ministry advertised the Scholarship Scheme in the Dominion Post, The NZ Herald, the Press and most community newspapers across the country and has some other avenues of advertising underway including a range of community newsletters and publications.

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Ministry of Education

Submissions

- **Export Education Levy (EEL) Rate for 2010**
Following initial discussion with the Minister of Education, the Ministry of Education is proposing that for all providers the current rate (a flat charge of \$185 per provider plus 0.45% of international student fee revenue) remain unchanged in 2010.

ISNZ has recommended that the proposed EEL rate for the 2010 calendar year be accepted.

Ministry of Education cont'd

Submissions

- **Living Arrangements of Young International Students (Guardianship Policy)**

The Ministry of Education consulted with key industry bodies on options for possible changes to the living arrangements of young international students (also referred to as the “guardianship policy”). The Ministry sought members' preferences with regard to the guardianship policy, any advantages and risks associated with each proposed option, and how risks might be effectively managed. It also sought advice on what responsibility the sector is willing to take for quality assurance and provider compliance, including where necessary, suggestions for possible regulatory or other sanctions that may be appropriate for non-compliant providers.

The ISNZ submissions, after full consultation with all member schools, does not support changing the minimum entry point to Year 5 or aged 9 years. ISNZ does not support widening the eligibility for a guardian visa. ISNZ believes that international students should be home stayed only, as is current practice, or where there are children under the age of 16 living in a hostel attached to the running of school, that hostel should be independently audited by NZQA and ERO. ISNZ stated that the proliferation of commercial enterprises providing accommodation needs curtailing and expressed the view that a School's ability to monitor levels of care and academic accountability is severely hampered in these circumstances. Submissions have been sent to all member schools and copies are available from the ISNZ office.

National Standards

The government recently launched its National Standards for literacy and numeracy in primary schools. Every child will have been assessed and reported on at least sixteen times before they get to secondary school under the national standards.

The Ministry of Education homepage for the National Standards can be found at www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/Consultations/NationalStandards.aspx

Prime Minister John Key, at the standards launch, described them as one of the most important steps his government would take.

Following the launch, the Ministry of Education said it would now focus on supporting schools to implement the curriculum and standards, and on the details of how it and schools would work together to do this.

Private schools are not required to implement the National Standards.

Ministry of Education Annual Report

The Ministry of Education tabled its annual report for 2009. The Ministry's highlights included:

- the development of National Standards in literacy and numeracy for Years 1 to 8
- strengthening the Maori education strategy
- support for schools preparing to implement the New Zealand Curriculum in 2010
- a scheme to reduce disruptive behaviour in schools
- developing policies for at least five Trades Academies by 2011.

The full report can be found at www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/publicationsAndResources/AnnualReport/AnnualReport09.aspx

Rest and Meal Breaks Legislation

A Bill granting greater flexibility to existing meal and rest breaks legislation was introduced to Parliament last week on behalf of Labour Minister Kate Wilkinson. The Employment Relations (Rest Breaks and Meal Breaks) Amendment Bill amends the Employment Relations Act 2000, giving employers and employees the opportunity to develop rest and meal break policies best suited to individual requirements. The Bill moves the legislative focus from prescription to flexibility, and encourages both employers and staff to negotiate in good faith about workable rest and meal breaks arrangements.

Under the Bill, there is still the requirement to provide meal breaks and paid rest breaks, but there will now be the added provision for compensatory measures – for example, later start or earlier finish times, or time off in lieu. The Bill introduces flexibility for workplaces to time rest breaks and meal breaks to suit service or production continuity.

New Zealand Teachers Council Board Chairman

The term of the current Chair of the Council, Kathy Smith, ends on 31 January 2010. On behalf of the Minister of Education, the Ministry of Education has commenced a search for suitable candidates for the position. ISNZ has endorsed the Ministry of Women's Affairs nomination of Mrs Gillian Eadie, past principal of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School and Corran School.

Law Commission

The Law Commission has published and released its Report 108 on Private Schools and the Law. The report acknowledges that private schools have been in New Zealand for a long time, that they provide parents with choice as to how their children are educated and that freedom of choice is very important. In the foreword Sir Geoffrey Palmer writes:

“Overall the private school sector is strong. But the key legislative provisions governing it have been with us for nearly 90 years, and the language in which they are couched is in places outdated and unclear. More importantly the provisions contain serious gaps. In particular, they leave the responsible agencies all but powerless to deal with some potential, albeit rare, situations where the safety and welfare of the students could be at serious risk. These gaps obviously need to be filled. This report certainly does not recommend a root-and-branch reform. It advocates a modernisation and rounding out of the provisions relating to private schools in the education act 1989, and puts some safeguards in place to deal with serious problems should they arise. There is no need to do more than that.”

The recommendations outlined in the report offer no real surprises and provided a private school is being governed and managed effectively there should be little cause for concern in these recommendations being adopted. A full copy of the report has been sent to all private schools and is also available from the ISNZ office.

ISNZ met with the Ministry last week to discuss the implementation of the proposed recommendations. The Ministry wishes to consult with private schools before any legislative change is recommended to the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Heather Roy and the Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley.

A draft implementation plan of proposed recommendations will be sent to all private schools for comment. Two private schools, one of which is an ISNZ member school, Scots College, will be part of a case study, to examine in detail what impact the recommendations made by the Law Commission will have on schools if implemented. E.g. compliance costs, additional staffing etc.

New Privacy Guidance for Schools

Privacy in Schools – A guide to the Privacy Act for principals, teachers and boards of trustees published by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner is now available. The book is written by leading New Zealand privacy lawyer Kathryn Dalziel and published by the Privacy Commissioner. It gives practical advice to schools about how the Privacy Act works. It includes discussions and examples of each of the privacy principles and looks at other relevant legislation that may need to be applied first. For instance:

- Can schools use CCTV cameras?
- Should they put photos of students on their websites?
- Do school counsellors have to disclose information to parents?
- When do schools have to disclose information to other agencies?
- How much information needs to be collected on school enrolment forms?

The book is available as a free pdf download from <http://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-in-schools-a-guide-to-the-privacy-act-for-principals-teachers-and-boards-of-trustees/> Also published in hard-copy, A5, 40 pages, colour, \$20 or \$15 per copy for orders of 10 or more (plus \$2.00 p&p) To order: The Office of the Privacy Commissioner, PO Box 466, Shortland Street, Auckland Ph: 09 302 8680 Fax: 09 302 2305 Email: enquiries@privacy.org.nz.

Excellence in Teaching Awards 2010

The 2010 promotional material calling for nominations has gone out to member schools. **Nominations close 20 November 2009.** We encourage all Heads of member schools to support the initiative and nominate teachers from their schools. We appreciate and acknowledge the loyal and continued support of Distinction and Specific Yearbooks in sponsoring these awards. We are looking for a third sponsor (to replace Konica Minolta) and invite our current sponsors to take advantage of this opportunity. The ISNZ Excellence in Teaching Awards enjoy an increasingly high profile in the calendar of events and in the education sector as a whole.

The Heads of the Independent Schools Scholarship Trust – Grants 2010

The Heads of the Independent Schools Scholarship Trust offers financial assistance to Principals and staff of ISNZ Member Schools for current research and/or study that advance the value of independent schooling in New Zealand. The funding available for 2010 scholarships will be \$3500 with another \$3500 held in reserve should the calibre of the applicants warrant additional scholarship funding. The programme of study or research for which funding is given, should be completed within the 2010 calendar year. Notification of the 2010 Scholarship applications will be sent to schools in early November. We hope that Board Chairmen will encourage their Heads and school staff to put their names forward for this prestigious scholarship.

Gold

Fuji Xerox New Zealand Ltd
Marsh Ltd

Silver

Alliance Catering Ltd (formerly
Spotless Services)
ASB Bank Ltd
Gallagher Security Management
Systems (Cardax)
Karndean International
Programmed Property Services
Renaissance Education Division
School Supplies

Bronze

3P Learning NZ (Mathletics)
ACTIVboardNZ
Computing Directions Australia
Distinction
Education Personnel Ltd
Learning Network NZ
Lundia Shelving Ltd
OMNILINK
Rent Plus for Education
Schoolgate
Specific Yearbooks Ltd
University of Cambridge
International Examinations

Deborah James
Executive Director

ISNZ 2010 Annual Conference

The 2010 ISNZ Annual Conference will be held in **Queenstown Friday 27 – Saturday 28 August** at the Millennium Hotel. Please note there will not be separate ASBA, AHIS and ISNZ conferences in 2010. We will run one conference over two days with breakout sessions designed to meet the needs of different personnel within our member schools. Within this timeframe and on the previous day and the day after there will be opportunities for the different constituent groups to network and meet informally. We look forward to furnishing you with more information as the conference programme is developed. ISNZ will organise a golf tournament and also a vineyard tour – details will be sent to you before Christmas.

Inhouse Advisory Services Database

ISNZ now holds a database of people who are willing to act in an advisory capacity to Heads and Boards of member schools. Should Heads or Board members wish to make use of this facility please contact ISNZ and we will give you the contact details of the most appropriate person to assist with a given issue you might have.

Membership News

- Mr Grant Lander has been appointed as the new Headmaster of **St Paul's Collegiate School**. He is currently the Principal at Lindisfarne College and will take up his position at St Paul's in Term One 2010.
- Ms Christine Gordon SC has been appointed to the position of Board Chairman at **St Cuthbert's College**. She succeeds Mr Cameron Fleming who has retired from the chairmanship.
- **Dilworth School**: Dilworth Trust Board is pleased to advise that it has purchased the land, buildings and chattels of Hotel du Vin. The hotel and spa buildings will have to be reconfigured internally to make them suitable for school use. The earliest likely time for opening of this Rural Campus will be around 2012.
- Mr Peter Crompton will officially take up the position of Principal at **Ficino School** in Term One 2010. He will be returning home to New Zealand after 20 years abroad.
- Clarence van der Wel, foundation Principal at **ACG Strathallan**, will move to an Executive Management position within the ACG Head Office effective Term 2, 2010.

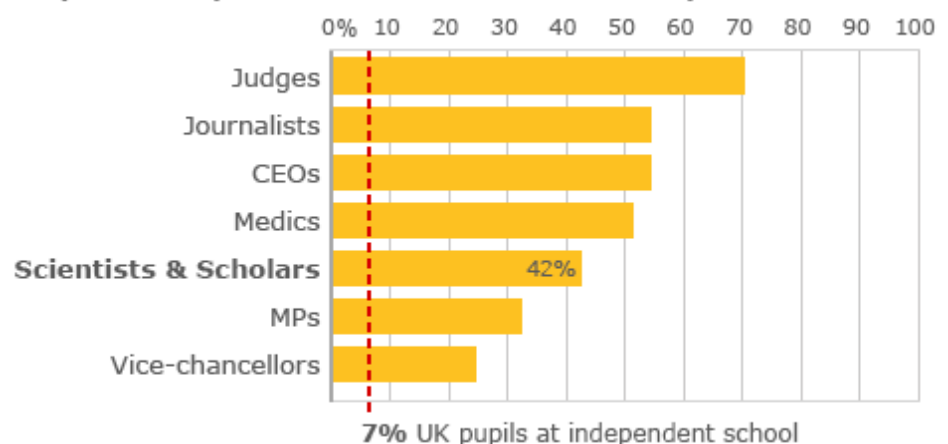
International News:

Private school pupils dominate top professions, academia and science

Forty-two percent of the United Kingdom's top scientists and scholars were privately educated, according to research reported on the BBC website. The study by the Sutton Trust educational charity also found that 51 percent of medics, 70 percent of judges, 54 percent of leading journalists and 32 percent of members of parliament went to independent schools. Private schools educated about 7 percent of children in the United Kingdom and about 14 percent of university entrants were from independent schools.

In the study, analysts looked at the educational backgrounds of 1,700 of the 2,200 fellows of the Royal Society and British Academy.

Proportion of professionals who attended independent school



Source: The Sutton Trust 2006-2009