

ISNZ Newsletter

Government and Parliament

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Aspire Scholarships Scheme

Hon Heather Roy responded (15 December 2009) to the issues raised by ISNZ Member Schools regarding the inaugural launch and process used to implement the Aspire Scholarship Scheme. A copy of her written response is enclosed for Heads and Business Managers. We shall continue to have discussions with the Minister and give feedback from member schools, as the process is fine-tuned. Peter Clague, Principal, Kristin School, will continue to be a member of the Ministry panel set up to review and oversee the scholarship scheme.

Minister Roy will be speaking at the AHIS CEO Day for Heads on Tuesday 16 March. She will give an overview of the Aspire Scholarship Scheme and discuss any concerns that Heads may have as schools take on the first recipients of the scholarships.

2010 Meetings with Hon Heather Roy

The confirmed meeting dates with Hon Heather Roy for this year are:

- Tuesday 9 February
- Tuesday 4 May
- Tuesday 3 August
- Tuesday 23 November

Peter Ferguson (ISA), Ross Scrymgeour (AHIS), Sue Britton (ASBA) and Deborah James (ISNZ Executive Director) will attend these meetings. ISNZ Member Schools will be asked for agenda items or issues they would like raised prior to these meetings.

The Minister has been furnished with the updated 2010 Government Communications paper and we have requested that this paper act as a working document throughout the year, and that we would like the opportunity to raise other issues as they become apparent. Board Chairs, Heads, Bursars and Business Managers will be sent a copy of this paper to assist them in their relations with local Members of Parliament.

Our first meeting with Minister Roy (9 February) was positive and productive covering the following discussion points:

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Issue One: Government Funding

Minister Roy made the comment that in light of the additional funding of \$35 million granted in 2009 and the current economic climate there will be no further funding to private schools in the immediate future. As the economy stabilises and improves, funding arrangements for private schools may be re-visited.

The effect of any future additional funding would result in increased government oversight of private schools and increased compliance with regulations as set by the Ministry of Education. It was noted that any comparative study with Australia will show that where there has been additional government funding, there has also been an increase in compliance and government oversight.

Issue Two: Aspire Scholarships

- Minister Roy is happy for a review document to be made available to ISNZ and also for Peter Clague, as a member of the Ministry Panel overseeing the Aspire Scholarship Scheme, to give a report to ISNZ Member Schools.
- Not all 150 scholarships were taken up in 2010. The shortfall, of approximately 30 scholarships, will be offered in 2011, in addition to the 50 allocated scholarships offered at Year 9 in 2011.

Government and Parliament cont'd

- The timeframe of the Aspire Scholarship application process will be adjusted this year to be more compatible with application/enrolment timeframes used by private schools. It was suggested that successful scholarship recipients be notified no later than early June.
- Discussion was given to additional scholarships being offered to primary school students. The Minister explained that given the relatively small number of scholarships being offered, it was decided that all scholarships would go to secondary school students. If at any time in the future additional scholarships were offered, there would be consideration given to primary school students benefitting from the scheme.
- One aspect of the Aspire Scholarship Scheme that we did not discuss but that has been raised with the Minister by a couple of Heads is whether the scholarships will be adjusted by a CPI Index on an annual basis to cover the impact of inflation. We have requested a written response to this issue.
- Discussion was also given to the issue of rural families and independent schools that serve the rural communities, being disadvantaged under the scholarship criteria. Again we have requested a written response.

Issue Three: The Conditional Integration Act

The Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, the Ministry of Education and the CEO of the Integrated Schools, Brother Pat Lynch, are all aware of the integrated schools that might be charging excessive attendance dues and making "donations" a compulsory cost to parents. We have been assured that this situation is being monitored and addressed accordingly.

Issue Four: ICT Funding : Ultra Fast Broadband Roll Out Project

There is no guarantee that private schools will be included in the \$34 million upgrade of schools' ICT infrastructure with a proportionate level of funding being provided to upgrade their networks. However, after discussion with Minister Roy she is willing to raise the issue again with Minister Tolley on the grounds that the cost to private schools, as with state integrated schools, will be considerably less if they are included in the upgrade.

Issue Five: EHSAS Clusters

The Extending High Standards Across Schools (EHSAS) has been discontinued (from the end of December 2009) as a result of government reprioritisation. There will be no further rounds.

Issue Six: YAS/STAR/CIG Funding/Gateway

The Youth Guarantee Scheme may supersede some of the initiatives such as STAR and Gateway. We have requested a written response to any updates regarding this matter.

Issue Seven: Access to Team Solutions services

Sally Jackson from the Ministry of Education will investigate the current services from Team Solutions and the costs for services provided to state, state integrated and private schools.

Issue Eight: School Transport Assistance

Before taking this issue any further, ISNZ is to collate data from its member schools of the number of children affected by distance or lack of public transport services, and the transport costs incurred by these children. The collated data will then be sent to Minister Roy for her consideration.

Issue Nine: TeachNZ Teacher Recruitment Scholarships

Sally Jackson from the Ministry of Education will investigate the eligibility criteria for the TeachNZ Scholarships and whether a recipient retains eligibility if he/she chooses to teach in a private school. ISNZ will collate specific examples of where a TeachNZ Scholarship recipient has had to withdraw an application to teach in a private school or forfeit their scholarship.

Issue Ten: Recruitment of International Teachers

It was acknowledged that the New Zealand Teachers Council must uphold its rigorous standards in maintaining quality teachers in the teaching profession. The suggestion was made to canvass state and state integrated schools to gauge concerns other schools may have regarding the recruitment of international teachers.

The following dates of ISNZ events where Minister Roy will have a presence include:

- ISNZ cocktail function, Tuesday 16 February 2010, Grand Hall, Parliament, 5.15 pm to 7.00 pm. Hosted by Minister Roy.
- CEO Day for ISNZ Member School Principals, Tuesday 16 March 2010, Wellington Airport Conference Centre. Presentation time: 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. The Minister has been invited to join Principals for lunch at the conclusion of her presentation.
- ISNZ Board Chairs' Seminar, Monday 31 May 2010, Hyatt Regency, Auckland. Minister Roy will confirm her availability to speak to Board Chairs at this event.
- ISNZ Annual Conference, Friday 27 August 2010, Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, 9.30 am to 11.00 am. Minister Roy will speak at the Opening Ceremony and will also present the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Government and Parliament cont'd

ISNZ Annual Cocktail Function

Hon Heather Roy hosted the ISNZ Annual Cocktail function held on Tuesday 16 February 2010 in the Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings. In her address to guests Minister Roy acknowledged the huge contribution made by independent schools and the excellent education outcomes for students at our schools. She also thanked the ISNZ Member schools for their support of the Aspire Scholarship Scheme and for promoting them to their school and wider communities.

In 2011 we hope to host this event the night before CEO Day so that more Heads of our member schools will have a presence at that occasion.

Ministry of Education

Law Commission: Report 108 Private Schools and the Law

The Ministry of Education has advised all private schools that the government will be responding to the recommendations made by the Law Commission as outlined in Report 108. The Ministry of Education has submitted its report on the Law Commission's recommendations to the Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley and the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Heather Roy. The Ministry invited all private schools to provide feedback on the Law Commission's recommendations. We have yet to receive any response from the Ministry or the Associate Minister of Education on the proposed implementation of these recommendations.

Integration Applications

ISNZ has not been informed of any ISNZ Member Schools having successful integration applications. We would be grateful if member schools informed ISNZ of a proposed application to integrate. Obviously this information would remain with ISNZ in the strictest of confidence.

We would also strongly recommend that any member school considering integration call on ISNZ for assistance and advice before going down the path of applying to integrate. It is imperative that Boards, Heads and the school community are fully versed on the impact of integration. We would hope that member schools would do everything in their power to hold onto their independent school status before resorting to state integration.

We have member schools that in the past have carried out feasibility studies on state integration and have subsequently decided not to apply. There is expertise at hand for any member school that is faced with the dilemma of whether or not to apply for state-integration.

Remuneration Survey

Moyle Remuneration Consulting has been contracted to carry out the Remuneration Survey for ISNZ Member Schools. The survey forms have been distributed to member schools. Stephanie Bond, who worked on the survey in 2008, will also manage the survey this year. All going well, we should be able to distribute the report to member schools by the end of May.

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 has been sent to schools. We hope that Board Chairmen will encourage their Heads and School staff to put their names forward for this prestigious scholarship. **Nominations close 31 March 2010.**

Excellence in Teaching Awards: Sponsor

We have a vacancy for an Excellence in Teaching Sponsor. The cost of the sponsorship is \$3500 +GST. Should you know of any business/organisation that might be interested we would be grateful for any names and contact details. This initiative is a wonderful opportunity for corporates/businesses/education providers and suppliers to raise their profile awareness and make a valuable contribution to the education sector.

To our Sponsors

ISNZ is extremely grateful for the support and loyalty of our sponsors. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with such committed sponsors. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of ISNZ. We are very mindful of these straitened economic times and the decreasing sponsorship available to organizations. We value the partnership we have with each of our sponsors and we urge member schools to offer them the opportunity to promote their service/product and where possible to submit a tender or quote for any future contracts.

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International Examinations

Deborah James
Executive Director

ISNZ 2010 Conference

A reminder that 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 break-out 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. Please find enclosed a brochure promoting the conference. Further information and registration details will be available shortly.

We would urge you to book flights as soon as possible to take advantage of cheap fares. The Opening Ceremony will start at 9.30 am on Friday 27 August.

Membership

- **Hill Top School** has ceased to operate as a school. Hill Top School's membership to ISNZ has ceased, effective 1 January 2010.
- **Kadimah School** has appointed Mr Robert Minahan to the position of Principal effective January 2010
- **Ficino School:** Mr Peter Crompton has taken up his position as Principal effective January 2010.
- **Saint Kentigern School for Girls–Corran:** Mrs Sandra Hastie has been appointed as Principal taking up her duties in January 2010.
- **St Paul's Collegiate School:** Mr Grant Lander has taken up the position of Headmaster effective January 2010.
- **Rangitaiki Independent School:** Ms Chrissy Toy and Ms Alison Derbyshire have been appointed Co-Principals effective January 2010. Mrs Gay West will continue at Rangitaiki in her position as Proprietor/Director
- **The Cathedral Grammar School:** Mr George Gould has retired as Chairman of the Board. Mr Craig Armitage will succeed him effective January 2010.
- **Kristin School:** Mr Barry Stevens has retired as Chairman of the Board. Philippa Fee will succeed him effective January 2010.
- **Waihi School:** Mr Richie Smith has retired as Chairman of the Board. Mr John Rolleston will succeed him effective January 2010.
- **Queen Margaret College:** Mr Trevor Douthett has retired as Chairman of the Board. Mr Nigel Bingham will succeed him effective January 2010.
- **Scots College:** Dr John Carter has retired as Chairman of the Board. Mr Grant Dennis will succeed him effective January 2010.

It has been a very busy and exciting start to 2010. We look forward to working with you throughout the year and we encourage you to make ISNZ your first port of call for any advice, support and information that you may require. Your membership is important to us and we are constantly endeavouring to improve the services we offer.

Other Conferences/Workshops in 2010

NAIS Annual Conference 24-26 February San Francisco, CA, USA

National Girls' Education Conference 16-18 June Melbourne, Australia
www.insights2010.com

Heads of Independent Coeducational Schools 26-28 June Sydney, Australia

Australian Anglican Schools Network Conference 13-15 August Brisbane, Australia
www.aasn.edu.au

ISNZ Annual Conference 27-28 August Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, NZ

Inaugural IPSHA Biennial Conference 5-8 September 2010 Melbourne, Australia

CLESOL 2010: Community Languages and English for Speakers of Other Languages 1-4 October Dunedin, NZ www.clesol.org.nz