

NZEI TE RIU ROA

Kia ora,

We're on strike because children need more support and so do we.

We're Ministry of Education service managers, field staff* and education support workers** who care deeply about supporting **tamariki with learning needs, ranging from neurodiversity to developmental, physical, emotional and social challenges.**

But **children are sitting on waiting lists**, our staffing is inadequate and we're doing too much overtime. Now, as a last resort, we are taking industrial action. We've been negotiating with the Government since the beginning of the year, and it's made us offers on our collective agreements that **don't address our issues.**

This is the action we're taking:

22 July 10am – 12pm: Ministry of Education service managers, field staff and education support workers are **stopping all work.**

23 July – 22 August: Service managers and field staff are on **partial strike**, 'working to rule', by adhering to the minimum requirements of our job description.

Since our collective agreements expired earlier this year, we have been talking to the Ministry of Education, asking them to acknowledge that the learning support waitlists for tamariki are too long, and this is untenable and unsustainable.

Now we're stuck between a rock (inadequate offers from the Government to improve our pay and working conditions) and a hard place (giving tamariki the professional support they need).

We know how long it takes tamariki to get the support they need from us. To fix this, we need fair working terms and conditions. This will help attract and retain great people to work with children.

Tamariki who need additional support – and their whānau – are at the centre of everything we do and we will do everything we can to get the best outcome for them.

Thanks for supporting us.

* Advisers on deaf children, behaviour support specialists, behaviour support teachers, disability facilitators, early intervention teachers, education specialist trainees, intern psychologists, Kaitakawaenga, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, Pouarahi-a-Takiwa/district Māori advisers, psychologists, special education advisers, speech language therapists and regional technology co-ordinators.

** Education support workers, behaviour support workers and communication support workers.