



Campaigning for essential school staff

**NGĀ WHĀTUI**

**NZEI  
TE RIU ROA**

## **Invest in essential school staff:** An open letter to the New Zealand Government

Alongside teachers and principals, support staff and kaiārahi i te reo play a critical role supporting the education of your tamariki here at our kura.

You may know them as your child's teacher aide or learning assistant, friendly face at the school reception, kaiārahi i te reo, therapist, school librarian or science technician.

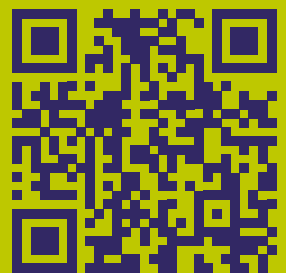
But, because of the way schools are funded, these essential workers have poor job security, and their work goes undervalued.

Support staff and kaiārahi i te reo are negotiating their working terms and conditions with Government and are asking for improvements – like fair pay, job security and professional learning and development – that reflect their essential contribution to teaching and learning.

### **Be part of the solution!**

By signing this open letter you are showing support for better investment in a quality public education system, and in support staff and kaiārahi i te reo as essential staff.

Add your signature to the open letter at your school gate or scan this QR code, and help us reach our target of 20,000 signatures by 16 May.



[bit.ly/essentials\\_letter](https://bit.ly/essentials_letter)

# School gate conversation guide: **Invest in support staff**

## What?

Collect whānau paper signatures for support staff open letter before it's delivered on 16 May.

## When?

You can do this on **1 May**, or any day between **2–15 May**.

## Why?

Face-to-face conversations are the best way to engage whānau and;

- Are a meaningful first step to connect with them about our shared goal of wanting more support for learners and bargaining all your agreements this year
- Delivering 20,000+ signatures to Minister Stanford on 16 May will send a clear message we've got whānau support for increasing school staffing and valuing staff.

## Summary

Kaiako, tumuaki and support staff are united in agreement that tamariki need to be supported to learn. That's why we value support staff. We're inviting you to take a moment to think about what they contribute to our kura.

## What do we want whānau...

### To know?

- Support staff play an essential role
- After six months of bargaining, Government has offered 0% pay increase to majority of support staff
- Government isn't investing in staff who directly support student learning.

### To feel?

What happens in support staff (and teacher and principal) negotiations connects to me & how my child learns at this kura.

### To do?

Sign the petition now.

### 1. **Establish what you're there to talk about**

eg. Kia ora [name], I'm here collecting signatures for a letter to government to say our support staff are essential and we need to value them. Can I talk to you about it why it matters for our kura?

### 2. **Explain support staff are people they know, with names**

eg. You know who our support staff are here at our kura? People like \_\_\_ in the office, \_\_\_ the kaiārahi i te reo \_\_\_ in library, \_\_\_ the teacher aide etc.

### 3. **Use a question so they say why they, as whānau, value support staff**

eg. How have you seen \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ support your tamariki/ you and other whānau?

Imagine if we had more staff like \_\_\_, we do need more teacher aides in classrooms. What would that mean for your child?

### 4. **Explain why their signature matters and that now is the time**

eg. We're doing this because our support staff have been bargaining with Government for six months and they're still offering most support staff no pay increases or security of hours. We're delivering this letter to government on 16 May. By signing this letter, you are showing our support staff that you value them and asking Government to do the same.

### 5. **Be direct in asking them to sign**

eg. Our support staff provide essential support for children on their learning journey. I've signed the open letter. Will you?