

WĀWĀHI

TAHĀ

TIME

4

TAMARIKI

**TE
AO
KEI
TUA**

**PRINCIPALS LEADING
OUR SCHOOLS
OUR COMMUNITIES
OUR FUTURE**

Wāwāhi Tahā Time 4 Tamariki and Te Ao Kei Tua

No matter who you are or where you live in Aotearoa, we all want to ensure that the tamariki in our lives have access to a quality, public education. Primary school teachers and kaiako, principals and tumuaki play a crucial role in fostering the learning and growth of a child in their early years. However, severe underfunding and increased pressures because of the pandemic are hurting the education system. These issues are even more pronounced for Māori and Pasifika tamariki.

NZEI Te Riu Roa primary teacher and principal members are campaigning to ensure our primary schools and kura have the staffing needed to enable all tamariki to reach their potential. Following the independent review that NZEI Te Riu Roa commissioned in 2021, we know that the current staffing model is not fit for purpose. For both campaigns, Wāwāhi Tahā | Time 4 Tamariki for teachers and Te Ao Kei Tua for principals, the goal is to win political support for a pathway to fully staff our primary schools and address the issues that currently prevent many children from thriving and reaching their potential.

The pathway forward

If we are going to ensure that all tamariki in Aotearoa can reach their potential in primary schools and kura kaupapa Māori, the recommendations from the Pūaotanga report must be implemented. Not all can be implemented overnight, but we need a pathway to address staffing issues by 2030, starting now. The Wāwāhi Tahā | Time 4 Tamariki and Te Ao Kei Tua campaigns are focused on five key areas:

1. Smaller class sizes

Smaller class sizes involves reducing the student: teacher ratios, so that by 2030 the ratio is:

- Year 1 1:15 (the current ratio)
- Year 2-3 1:20 (currently 1:23, but not a reality in many classrooms)
- Year 4-8 1:23 (currently 1:29, but not a reality in many classrooms)

2. More learning support

Learning support is chronically underfunded. What is needed is:

- A dedicated Learning Support Coordinator or SENCO in school and kura
- A dramatic increase in the number of teacher aides to reflect need, as well as centralised funding for teacher aides and the professional development that is vital for their role

3. Principal wellbeing

Measures are needed to:

- Support the wellbeing of principals, to ensure the excessive work demands are addressed and they are free to do the job they need to do in leading their schools

4. Support for Māori

All tamariki Māori should be able to learn in te reo, but that is impossible with current staffing and lack of support and resources. What is needed is:

- Comprehensive initiatives to boost the number of teachers fluent in Te Reo Māori, so that teacher supply in Māori immersion settings matches demand by 2030
- Support for hapū, iwi and community
- The provision of curriculum resources in Te Reo Māori
- Reduced akonga: kaiako ratios in Māori immersion settings so that by 2030, the ratio is:
 - Year 1 1:12 (currently 1:15)
 - Years 2-8 1:15 (currently 1:18)

5. Support for Pasifika

Pasifika children and teachers also need much more support, including support for Pasifika language and culture. This looks like:

- Increased support for teaching in Pasifika languages, including an allowance to match the current allowance for teaching in Te Reo Māori
- Increased training, and teaching resources
- Support to acknowledge community and cultural contributions in schools with high Pasifika rolls