

Early Education Federation



News Update – 3 March 2016

GOVERNMENT POLICY and LEGISLATION

Update on the Education Act update from Ministry of Education

Submissions on updating the Education Act 1989 closed on Monday 14 December 2015.

The Ministry of Education received a total of 1854 submissions and a report summarising the submissions will be available on the MoE website soon.

Next steps

Analysed submissions, along with workshop feedback and other evidence, will help shape some firmer proposals for the Minister of Education to consider. The Minister will then seek Cabinet's agreement to her preferred proposals. If Cabinet agrees, a Bill will be drafted. The public will have further opportunity to comment on any specific proposals for change through a Parliamentary select committee process in 2016.

Children's Workforce Survey from Ministry of Education

Research NZ is running this survey on behalf of **The Children's Action Plan Directorate**. The Government says that the survey will help them understand the current workforce and ensure investments in the workforce are focused in the right areas, and help build a connected, competent, children's workforce which works together to respond effectively when things aren't right for children.

Deadline for responses is: **15 March 2016**.

There are two questionnaires, one for individuals (staff members, volunteers) and one for organisations. It takes about 10 minutes to complete.

The **individual questionnaire** can be accessed [here](#).

The **organisational questionnaire** can be accessed [here](#).

Minimum wage increase from Employers Associates Ltd

"The minimum wage will increase on 1 April 2016 by 50 cents an hour, from \$14.75 to \$15.25. The starting out and training rates will increase from \$11.80 to \$12.20 on the same date. This applies regardless of what rate is set in the employee's employment agreement."

Living wage increase announced from Employers Associates Ltd

“The 2015 living wage was \$19.25 per hour, and the 2016 rate, which is effective from 1 July 2016, will be \$19.80. This is an increase of 55 cents per hour.

The living wage is not a legal minimum as the minimum wage is, it is an optional commitment which a number of employers have committed to. Employers who have committed to paying the living wage in their employment agreements will need to ensure that the new rate is paid from 1 July 2016. This only applies to employers who have committed to the concept of paying living wage on an ongoing basis.”

CPI from Employers Associates Ltd

“CPI continues to be very low – the annual change as at December 2015, announced in January 2016, was 0.1%, so almost nil change. The next CPI figures will be for the year ended March 2016 and will be available in mid April.”

Revised playground equipment and surfacing Standard published from Ministry of Education

The New Zealand Standard for playground equipment and surfacing has been revised. Early childhood education (ECE) services and kōhanga reo are not required to comply with the Standard. However, the Ministry encourages services to use it to ensure their play equipment and surfacing will keep children safe. [Find out more about the revised playground equipment and surfacing Standard published here.](#)

Health and Safety at Work Act commences 4 April 2016 from Ministry of Education

Updates and resources available here:

<http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/health-and-safety/news-updates-for-health-and-safety/>

Duty holders under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (the Act) defines specific health and safety duties for all New Zealand businesses and organisations.

The legislation identifies who has responsibilities for health and safety (duty holders). For early childhood education (ECE) services, kōhanga reo and playgroups, who the duty holders are will vary depending on the service’s organisational structure.

[Read more about your responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 here.](#)
from Employers Associates Ltd.

Article on changes to the Act here: <http://employersassociates.co.nz/News.html>

Review of Code for advertising to children **from Child Wellbeing Network**

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is currently reviewing its *Code for advertising to children* and the *Children's code for advertising food*: <http://www.asa.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ASA-Childrens-Codes-Consultation-Paper-2016.pdf>

The ASA states that it is reviewing its children's codes to coincide with the work being undertaken across a number of sectors as part of the childhood obesity plan (<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/obesity/childhood-obesity-plan>)

Preparing for the new food safety law **from Ministry of Education**

The new food safety law – the Food Act 2014 – came into effect on 1 March 2016. Guidance is now available to help early learning services prepare for the new rules.

All early learning services must ensure the food they serve is safe and suitable for children. Check the '[food safety guidance for exempt businesses](#)' guidance to make sure you're taking the right steps to keep food safe.

[See how the new law applies differently to different early childhood education \(ECE\) services on education.govt.nz.](#)

REPORTS / RESEARCH / ARTICLES

Tackling child health inequalities seminar presentation **from Child Wellbeing network**

You can now download Prof Catherine Law's presentation slides and listen to the audio from the Tackling child health inequalities seminar online:

http://www.superu.govt.nz/news-and-events/tackling_child_health_inequalities

NZ Initiative's report on poverty **from Child Wellbeing Network**

Comment from Jess Berentson-Shaw, Phd, Morgan Foundation.

<https://garethsworld.com/blog/tax-and-welfare/there-is-child-poverty-in-new-zealand-no-matter-how-you-measure-it-lets-just-do-something-about-it/>

Call for research papers **from Child Wellbeing Network**

Request for research papers and teaching practice reflections on civics, citizenship and political literacy. Abstract proposals are due on 11 April.

<http://www.nzcer.org.nz/call-papers-set-special-issue-civics-citizenship-participation-and-political-literacy-o>

CHARITIES / NOT-FOR-PROFIT

New Financial Reporting Standards for charities from Accounting for Charities

Registered charities with financial years ending 31 March 2016 onwards, have to produce Financial Statements in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards issued by the External Reporting Board.

Hui E! March 2016 Newsletter from Hui E! Community Aotearoa

Comments from Peter Glensor, Hui E! General Manager:

This month, there is a line up of meeting opportunities – Sector Hui in Auckland and Wellington. The first Hui E! Ethnic Summit. The Comms2Comms Network. Incorporated Societies Act changes.

Peter says:

“Check out the opportunities to meet others, to learn, and to build links with others. In Hui E! We want to help frame conversations (Korero), bring people together (Hui) and take practical action (Awhina). But we can’t do that alone.

We need to work together and keep one another informed. Let us know if there’s more we can do with you.”

<http://www.huie.org.nz/news/>