



PPTA TE WEHENGARUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

LABORATORY MANAGERS UPDATE – A REPORT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE



PPTA Te Wehengarua | PO Box 2119, Wellington 6140 | p. +64 4 384 9964 | e. enquiries@ppta.org.nz
File Number. G/E/AC/2022



CONTENTS

RECOMMENDATION.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. PROGRESS TO DATE	3
3. ISSUES ARISING.....	3
4. A WAY FORWARD	4

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be received.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. At the 2020 Annual Conference the Waikato Region presented the paper “School Laboratory Managers”. One of the recommendations on this paper was:

That PPTA commissions an external job-sizing exercise for the laboratory manager role in a range of schools, to determine appropriate time and remuneration levels, and report these findings to the 2021 Annual Conference.

- 1.2 This report provides a progress update.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 In 2021 several attempts were made to contract this work to an external organisation. Each attempt took several weeks, and ultimately was not successful, with the organisations involved being unable to complete the work appropriately. These approaches were made through organisations specialising in health and safety.
- 2.2 In mid-2021 we contracted a retired staff member to undertake the work. However, COVID intervened, and whilst a start was made on the work, the person contracted was unable to complete it. This process concluded in early 2022.
- 2.3 We have internally attempted to gather enough information for this report using the networks and information we have. Again, with COVID creating so much disruption within our schools, we were unwilling to apply additional pressure to teachers. The small number of responses we have had to date support all the previous work done to write the original 2020 Annual Conference paper – that people are not compensated in any way for this work, which is taking one to two hours a week.

3. ISSUES ARISING

- 3.1 Complicating the situation is a recent change to the guidance for schools around safety in science. In May 2022 the Ministry of Education published ‘Safety and Science/Pūtaiao: Guidance for Aotearoa New Zealand Schools and Kura’¹.
- 3.2 This new document shifts some of the liability onto classroom teachers², and as such may impact the work done by the designated laboratory manager.

¹ <https://scienceonline.tki.org.nz/content/download/1611/21493/version/2/file/MOE-School+Labs+Guidance.pdf>

² <https://nzase.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-05-Safety-in-science-teaching-NZASE-guide.pdf>

4. A WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 While this work has been difficult to complete, it is certainly not forgotten. There is a plan in place for this work to be completed in early 2023, when hopefully the sector is facing fewer challenges and the new guidance has bedded in. There will be a report to 2023 Annual Conference.