

The School Run Reality Check

PPTA
Te Wehengarua

The ongoing war in Iran is causing fuel prices to hit historically high levels. Security of supply is uncertain. The international situation is becoming more volatile by the day.

There has been no data available on teacher travel – until now. Over 6,000 teachers rapidly responded to a PPTA Te Wehengarua survey about their travel arrangements.



CAR DEPENDENCY & PUBLIC TRANSPORT VIABILITY

89%

Teachers who travel to school by private motor vehicle

79%

Of those teachers say public transport is not a viable option for them

41%

Teachers who say that fuel costs are already causing huge or significant financial pressure

COMMUTE DISTANCES



174km

The average commute each week

1000km

The longest distance travelled each week by a teacher to their classroom

Teachers in smaller, more remote settlements, in schools facing greater challenges* and kaupapa Māori education settings tend to travel greater distances and face greater financial pressures.



IT'S NOT JUST TEACHERS

44%

Students aged 10-14 travelling by private motor vehicle

7%



Students living in an area where scaling bus services could meaningfully reduce reliance on cars



The Government says it doesn't want schools moving to online learning, even if the fuel situation gets much worse. PPTA Te Wehengarua wants to avoid that kind of disruption for students and teachers too, but we must be realistic about the pressures we're facing and what the Government would need to do for face-to-face learning to remain viable.

*as measured by the Equity Index

Figures drawn from PPTA Te Wehengarua survey (Mar-Apr 2026, 6000+ respondents), Census 2023

ppta.org.nz