



Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

Tēnā koe Minister Hipkins

Adult and Community Education (ACE) is a vital part of the New Zealand education system. Learning does not just take place in a classroom when you're young. It is a lifelong pursuit that happens at every age. It is also the means by which communities come together, share their cultures and lives, and create a shared sense of belonging.

We must invest in the teachers who are working in Adult and Community Education. They, like all New Zealanders, are facing the increasing cost of living and they deserve to be fairly paid. Their rates of pay must be enough to attract and retain teachers in these roles, and must reflect the skill and value of their positions.

We are calling for the Labour government to honour its commitment to Adult and Community Education as one of the avenues through which the New Zealand workforce retrain and adjusts to a Covid-19 world. This commitment must extend to fair pay and conditions for the workers in this part of the education sector.

The Emissions Reduction Plan released in May this year includes reforming the education and training system to support people to develop the skills needed for a low-emissions economy. A just transition must involve investment in Adult and Community education.

We, the undersigned branch of the Post Primary Teachers' Association Te Wehengarua, stand in solidarity with our colleagues who work in Adult and Community Education.

When we invest in teachers, we invest in Aotearoa.

Nāku noa, nā