



## Establishment of a PPTA Men's Network

### SUMMARY

This paper is in response to a recommendation from the 2015 PPTA annual conference that PPTA investigate the establishment of a men's network. The paper notes that PPTA practice has always been to support the expansion of union activism by encouraging the growth of new union groupings.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ~~1. That the report be received.~~
- ~~2. That branches be encouraged to appoint a men's representative to their branch committees.~~



## **Establishment of a PPTA Men's Network**

### **1. Background**

1.1 The 2015 Annual Conference passed the following recommendation:

*That PPTA investigate the establishment of a men's network and report back to the 2016 Annual Conference.*

### **2. Networks in PPTA**

2.1 One of the ways PPTA encourages activism amongst members is by establishing special interest groups and networks. There are a range of structures members can use as a gateway to union engagement. The one that is most apparent (and most important) is the branch because it sits at the nexus of the employer/employee relationship. From there, members can interact with other branches via the regional structures or become active nationally by being elected to executive or by being elected (or appointed) to one of the executive advisory committees.

2.2 Over time this traditional structure has been expanded and enhanced by the addition of networks. They are particularly important in recruiting new members, nurturing activism and providing a bridge to union leadership positions. Women, Māori, Pasifika, LGBTI teachers and, most recently, Establishing Teachers have set up networks where they can reflect on common problems and provide support to each other. It is always open to other groups within the membership to establish communities of interest.

### **3. PPTA Men's activities**

3.1 Men's meetings, where male teachers discuss issues of concern to them, have become a regular fixture of annual conference and the PPTA Issues and Organising seminar. Topics discussed include men's health, dealing with stress, interacting safely with students and active support for anti-violence campaigns.

3.2 It should be noted that the recommendation to investigate the establishment of a men's network did not arise from the men's meetings, though it has been discussed there on a number of occasions. Pragmatically, therefore, recommendation 2 suggests a testing of the water by encouraging branches to establish a position of men's representative as part of the branch committee. No constitutional change is needed.

### **4. Operation of the network**

4.1 The branch men's representatives could be provided with communication and coordination support from national office. Members would be invited to contribute details of their activities and issues for a report prepared for presentation at the bi-annual men's meetings.

4.2 As with other sector networks, one of the primary purposes of having a men's representative on branch committees is for mutual support. It is envisaged that a men's representative would be someone to whom other teachers could turn for guidance and



awhinatanga about issues that are impacting on them as male teachers. There are a number of health and mental health indicators where men are shown to be at risk, in particular in relation to rates of suicide and alcohol abuse.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 Establishing networks of engagement is 'business as usual' for PPTA and this proposal is no different. We have always endeavoured to be inclusive of the range of groups that make up our membership and to, as far as possible, make their concerns collective concerns.

### **Recommendations:**

1. ~~That the report be received.~~
2. ~~That branches be encouraged to appoint a men's representative to their branch committees.~~

# 2016 Annual Conference Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association (Inc) held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington, commencing at 9.45 a.m. on Tuesday 27 September, continuing at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 28 September and 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 29 September 2016.

## Establishment of a men's network

C16/71/20      Moved

1.            THAT the report be received.
  
2.            THAT branches and regions be encouraged to appoint a men's representative to their branch and regional committees.

**Carried**