

"The numbers are looking good, aren't they?"

"The govt. has announced XYZ to recruit new teachers"

We welcome anything that seeks to address recruitment, but these changes don't even address the govt's own projections for what's required.

We know teachers are highly valued in the community and we want them to be able to dedicate everything to every student.

Every step the government takes to address workload and the shortage is welcomed, but incremental moves aren't going to address the core problems in education.

"The government can't fix everything overnight"

Jacinda has fantastic aspirations but then Labour says there is no money. We are disappointed we are being attacked when we thought we were working towards the same goal. When the govt refuses to see what's happening and act, we have to do something to get their attention, even though it costs us a day's pay and takes us away from the work and children we love.

We absolutely agree that the wellbeing of young people should be a priority, but the govt needs to put money into our kids. We know the govt has the ability to do what needs be done for the children of NZ.

"Why strike now?"

We can't wait any longer. We've been at the table for quite some time.

"NZEI didn't achieve anything by striking"

This demonstrates that the government isn't listening to teachers
Isn't it terrible? It's so disrespectful; to the profession. We are pleased we can support each other as teachers on May 29

"What's a strike going to do?"

It demonstrates how dire the situation is that all schools are closing and that teachers are forgoing a day's pay and a day in the job they love just to hold the government to its own standards.

If it takes 50,000 teachers taking to the streets and losing pay to convince the government of wellbeing that our children's future is important, what type of government do we have?

We are being driven out of our classrooms.

"What a disruption!"

The bigger disruption is a teacher deficit; a lack of specialist teachers; an epidemic of stressed teachers – teachers that can't bring out the best for their students.

"What other workers are getting \$10K?" / "This is the best offer in a decade"

We understand 10K is a lot of money, but it's 10K over the life of the agreement. And the context is that the dollar value we assign to the work teachers do has continued to decline compared to other professions. This issue is widely acknowledged, and it's why no-one wants to be a teacher.

We're a union so we care about every other working person in NZ. We want everybody to have a decent living wage. What we are talking about here is a reset that will get people back into this profession.

Teachers are highly qualified professionals, and we have to be competitive in the job marketplace to attract the best. For example, we have a massive shortage of physics teachers, because physics graduates can earn much more straight out of uni.

"What about NZEI claims? They aren't asking for as much."

Primary and secondary teachers have the same aspirations for their children, and that's why it is so important we work together with them. But the details of their negotiations are up to them.