

PPTA

NEW ZEALAND POST PRIMARY
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TE WEHENGARUA

www.ppta.org.nz

Navigating the interface: PPTA's journey so far

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PPTA

- Represents 18,000 teachers in secondary and area schools
- Originally a professional association which was increasingly pushed into an industrial role
- Strong history of advocacy on issues such as curriculum, qualifications, and the recognition of a wider range of student achievement than just the academic

The Secondary-Tertiary Interface Taskforce

- Established in January 2013 to provide the executive with expert advice on the wide range of issues under the heading Youth Guarantee
- Consists of careers advisors, Gateway and STAR coordinators, a principal who leads a trades academy, curriculum specialists, et al
- Major report to Annual Conference 2013 (October) – this will be published

Youth Guarantee

Our investigation is covering:

- Trades academies
- Fees-free places in tertiary
- Youth Guarantee Networks
- Vocational Pathways
- STAR
- Gateway
- Careers
- Overall policy framework

Methodology

- Submissions/presentations from organisations e.g. Business NZ, ITF, Federated Farmers, Careers NZ, MOE, Metro Group, TEU, NZAPEP – excellent response
- Interviews with principals of lead schools for trades academies
- Survey of all principals about the whole YG area – responses from 122 principals of 341 surveyed (36%) – open from 10-26 June
- Study of the research literature
- Requests under the Official Information Act

Findings that follow are a synthesis from all of the above to date

Trades academies #1

- 49% of schools responding to the survey are involved with a trades academy, plus 4% hope to be involved next year
- Principals say that impact on students of participation is generally very positive or quite positive, in the areas of:
 - Motivation (90%),
 - Clarity about post-school destinations (79%)
 - Attendance at school (76%),
 - Achievement of at least Level 2 (74%)
 - Retention to the end of Year 13 (53%)

Trades academies #2

- Principals interviewed are overwhelmingly positive about the impact on students in the trades academies, and also on students in earlier year levels who can see this as a future option
- However, staffing/funding arrangements are an area of considerable angst among principals
- Those in smaller schools face huge issues around staffing of the rest of the curriculum
- The MOE needs to consider this

Trades academies #3

- The survey shows that among principals involved with trades academies:
 - 50% are very or quite satisfied with this year's arrangements;
 - Only 10% are very or quite satisfied with next year's arrangements;
 - 39% are somewhat or extremely dissatisfied;
 - And 32% still don't know what the arrangements will be.

Fees-free places in tertiary

- Principals' views are mixed about this
- About 40-50% of the sample were generally positive:
 - The places increase the options available to students,
 - They provide success for students whose needs schools had struggled to meet
- A smaller percentage said it had resulted in students leaving prematurely, cherry-picking by tertiary, students leaving school only to fail at tertiary, students leaving school to pick up tertiary courses that lead nowhere, etc.

Youth Guarantee Networks #1

- 30% of principals' schools were part of these
- 39% knew about them but no-one had approached them
- 13% knew about them but had chosen not to join one
- 14% had never heard of them

Youth Guarantee Networks #2

Of those who had heard about them:

- 55% saw them as a useful vehicle for collaboration
- 52% said they helped schools be more aware of what was available

But:

- 24% said they didn't need a network to co-operate with tertiary
- 19% said they tended to be just a talkfest

Vocational Pathways #1

- 53% of principals knew only a bit or very little about VPs
- 36% already have courses in place that fit some VPs
- 37% are discussing possible new courses to fit one or more VP
- 34% are discussing changes in assessment so students can earn credit on VPs
- 33% hadn't done anything about the VPs because they were waiting for final information
- 2% said they weren't interested in doing anything about them because "they are not useful for our students"

Vocational Pathways #2

- Among groups presenting to us, there is a high degree of optimism about these
- People involved with Youth Guarantee Networks are expected to use these as the framework for planning
- **But** PPTA is concerned about the absence of:
 - A comprehensive communications strategy,
 - Evaluation plan that includes longitudinal qualitative research,
 - PLD provision for senior and middle leaders and careers staff,
 - Tools and time for school planning.
- Implementation support is taking too long for most schools to be ready to deliver these and guide students next year
- 59% of principals surveyed said that they were not very familiar with the pathways requirements

STAR and Gateway

- Both these are very highly regarded by the majority of respondents
- They have proven success
- There is anxiety about whether these have a future over the long term
- Gateway is funded by TEC but STAR by MOE – raises some questions about accountability and continuation

Careers

- All of these initiatives require much more comprehensive guidance and advice for every student
- Careers NZ has produced its benchmarks showing what a good careers system in a school should involve
- But:
 - The fact that the CIAGE review has still not resulted in any policy recommendations suggests that the government doesn't see this as a high priority
 - There has been no PLD for careers advisers on these initiatives
 - There are no new resources for careers advisers
 - Websites are not enough

The changing senior secondary school

- Survey asked principals “What do you see as likely to be the nature of your senior school in five years’ time?”
- They tended to be optimistic:
 - 54% said they would have a much more interesting and varied range of options for students
 - 49% said their senior curriculum would better serve their less academic students
 - 49% said students would be moving fluidly between work placements, tertiary institutions and school
- On the other hand, 27% said their senior school would be much the same as now – these respondents appear to be a mix of schools which are already well into Youth Guarantee initiatives and the ones that are not

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