16 May 2012
For immediate release

WORKING GROUP HAS CONSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH TEACHER UNIONS

The New Zealand Model of Charter School Working Group\(^1\) held meetings this week with representatives from the New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa (NZEI) and the Post Primary Teachers’ Association / Te Wehengarua (PPTA).

Working Group Chair Catherine Isaac said the group was pleased that the teacher union representatives had accepted their invitation to meet with them and that the meetings had been very constructive. The two groups were invited to continue with the discussions as the project progresses.

“The two groups offered useful suggestions on a variety of issues including opportunities for innovation, enrolment of students, and how the project relates to system-wide improvements in education. We will certainly take these into consideration as we develop our advice to Ministers.

“Both the NZEI Te Riu Roa and PPTA share the Government’s concern to find ways to help raise the achievement of disadvantaged groups and others who are not well served by our current education system.

“As we work through the development of a New Zealand model of charter school we intend to listen carefully to all those with an interest in the project and to take on board any issues they wish to raise,” said Ms Isaac.

She said the group would continue to consult with a wide range of people, including principals, teachers, parents, businesses, communities and educational experts from New Zealand and around the world.

ENDS

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