

**NAMASTE - SABAIDEE - MAURI HALO OLA KETA -  
LA ORANA - HOLA MING LA BA - NI SA BULA VINA KA TALOFA - MALO NI -  
MALO E LELEI FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU - KIA ORANA TALOFA LAVA - KIA ORA - HELLO**

Did you know your child's kindergarten is part of the Whānau Manaaki Kindergarten Association? Our name means 'caring family of kindergartens' and we are producing regular newsletters to keep you up to date with what is happening in our larger kindergarten family (which also includes our home-based service, Etu Ao)

### 100% qualified teachers

100 per cent qualified teachers - and the funding to support them

We need your help to encourage the government to act!

Whānau Manaaki employs only qualified teachers in all its regulated teaching positions. This helps ensure quality education for children. All the research suggests children benefit from qualified teachers. But, unfortunately the government only funds us for 80 per cent qualified, meaning there is a shortfall in our funding each year.

When the Labour-led government was elected in 2017, we hoped that it would restore the funding. Labour, New Zealand First and the Greens all had policy to support reinstate funding for 100 per cent qualified teachers. Here they are with a pledge signed by representatives from all three parties.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins also visited Newtown Kindergarten in Wellington when he was in opposition and he pledged there to restore the funding.

Now, we are calling on them to deliver.

We appreciate any efforts our families can make to contact your MP, particularly government MPs, and ask them to keep this promise for our children.



## Letter Writing :

Here's what you can write:

Dear MP (use name)

I am a parent/teacher of XXX Kindergarten asking you to honour the Government's commitment to restore 100 per cent funding for qualified early childhood teachers.

*Insert personal statement here about the positive impact kindergarten has on your child.*

The Government's aims for learning and development in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy are already being met daily by kindergartens across the country for some 28,000 children with 74 per cent in low and middle-income areas.

You will know that quality early childhood education is a proven way to better children's outcomes. There is a weight of evidence that shows qualified teachers provide a quality learning experience.

Kindergarten funding was reduced in 2011 and they are only funded for four out of five qualified teachers. They cannot afford to keep absorbing those costs and do not want to pass them on to parents.

I appreciate that there are many calls on education funding, but quality early childhood education provides a tenfold return on investment. It makes sense for our society because children learn effectively, have good social skills, better mental and physical health to list just some of the benefits.

Please turn your words into actions by restoring 100 per cent funding for qualified teachers and ensuring annual funding rate increases that keep pace with rising costs.

## AGM

Last month the AGM was held for the very first time, in Whanganui. It was a chance to reflect on our last 12 months, review the finances and budgets for next year as well as presenting the Annual Report.

Congratulations to Monika Ciolek, Martin Robinson, Allanah Clark, Genia Kohrt and Iona To'omaga-Iona who were elected as Board members.

They join Emma McGregor, Tania Jones, Christina Rizos Amy Weightman and Kyran Smith to make up the full board.

At the meeting we also took the opportunity to celebrate those who give so much of their time to our kindergartens, this year the volunteers in the Whanganui and Central Plateau area.

We also recognised the life members from the Whanganui Association and gifted Marguerite and Fiona with flowers and a pin welcoming them as life members to He Whānau Manaaki.

As we head into the festive period we wish you and your family a wonderful summer, including Christmas and New Year if you celebrate these events.

