



Education (Protecting Teacher Title) Amendment Bill

9—1

Report of the Education and Workforce
Committee

May 2018

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Dr Parmjeet Parmar
Chairperson

Education (Protecting Teacher Title) Amendment Bill

Recommendation

The Education and Workforce Committee has examined the Education (Protecting Teacher Title) Amendment Bill, and recommends that this bill not proceed.

About the bill

This is a Member's bill in the name of Jennifer Marcroft MP. The bill seeks to amend the Education Act 1989 to restrict the use of the title "teacher" to people who have completed certain recognised qualifications. In doing so it would remove the ability of those without the qualifications to call themselves a teacher.

Member's request that the bill be withdrawn

In a letter dated 7 May 2018, Jennifer Marcroft, the bill's sponsoring member of Parliament, informed us of her decision to withdraw the bill. She commented that

the multiple streams of work the Minister of Education is undertaking show a real commitment to raising and recognising the status of the teaching profession which gives me confidence that the bill is no longer needed.

In light of Ms Marcroft's request, we recommend that the bill not proceed.

National members support lifting the status of the teaching profession, but we are opposed to the bill because it is fundamentally flawed. We believe that the impact on thousands of teachers losing their title was not thought through.

We would like to thank the individuals and organisations who have taken the time to provide written submissions on the bill.

Attorney-General's report under the Bill of Rights Act

For the record, we note that we also considered a report of the Attorney-General under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the bill.

The Attorney-General considered whether the bill is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. He concluded that the bill would limit the right to freedom of expression affirmed in section 14 of the Bill of Rights Act, and that this cannot be justified under section 5 of that Act.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Education (Protecting Teacher Title) Amendment Bill was referred to the committee on 21 February 2018. The closing date for submissions was 13 April 2018. We received 226 submissions from interested groups and individuals. We received advice from the Ministry of Education.

We considered a report of the Attorney-General under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the Education (Protecting Teacher Title) Amendment Bill.

Committee members

Dr Parmjeet Parmar (Chairperson from 9 May 2018)
Hon Michael Woodhouse (Chairperson from 21 March until 9 May 2018)
Sarah Dowie (Chairperson until 21 March 2018)
Simeon Brown (from 21 March 2018)
Hon Paul Goldsmith (until 21 March 2018)
Hon Nikki Kaye
Denise Lee
Marja Lubeck
Jo Luxton
Hon Tim Macindoe (until 4 April 2018)
Mark Patterson
Jamie Strange
Chlöe Swarbrick
Jan Tinetti
Nicola Willis (from 4 April 2018)

Advice and evidence received

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website, www.parliament.nz.