



MEDIA RELEASE

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Greater focus on upskilling boards of trustees for better student outcomes

One of NZSTA's key goals in 2015 is to provide all boards of trustees with the opportunity to build on their governance capacity through participation in high quality professional development (PD) opportunities says Lorraine Kerr, President, NZ School Trustees Association.

NZSTA is currently offering boards of trustees a wide range of alternative PD options, including tailored sessions to a boards specific needs, mentoring of board chairs, nationally advertised workshops, residential courses for new chairs, on-line learning options, and residential courses for student trustees.

"We know that high quality, effective governance is one of the factors that results in schools improving student outcomes, and that to consistently govern effectively requires a commitment on the part of trustees and boards to embark on a journey of continuous improvement.

"Our data tells us that in 2013-14, only 300 boards out of the total 2,420 have not accessed NZSTA PD," Lorraine Kerr says. "This could mean they have accessed PD elsewhere, or that they haven't had any. Whatever the reason, the fact that almost 90% of boards took up our offer of professional development over those two years is a testament to the commitment that boards make to their governance role.

"The remaining 300 boards will be approached this year to find out why, make any changes we need to make to our programmes, and where necessary to assist them to put a continuous development plan into place".

While undertaking PD is important, it is also essential to establish whether the PD undertaken has positively impacted on the quality of the governance at the school, and that the improvements gained from this continuous development are likely to enhance student learning/achievement.

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“Part of the follow up to any PD is to establish what has changed in what the board is doing, and whether that change is making the trustees, and the board, more effective in their governance role, with the overall benefits of improving student achievement”

Better equipping and supporting boards is consistent with NZSTA’s vision of all schools being effectively governed by a board of trustees whose primary focus is every student achieving their highest possible educational potential.

Ends

Enquiries regarding this release can be made to Lorraine Kerr, President, NZSTA at 0276875606