



16 March 2018

*Submission on Education (Teaching Council of Aotearoa) Amendment Bill*

The University of Otago College of Education (UOCE) was established in 2007 through the merger between the University of Otago and Dunedin College of Education. The UOCE has the longest history of teacher education in New Zealand with the former College of Education having been established in 1876. As an institution the UOCE has a long established reputation for excellence in education and the professional education of teachers. We offer initial teacher education (ITE) programmes in early childhood, primary, primary bi-cultural and secondary education. Postgraduate study options for ongoing professional learning and development of teachers and education professionals are rich; we offer a suite of programmes from degrees through to doctorates.

Please accept this submission on the Education (Teaching Council of Aotearoa) Amendment Bill. This bill seeks to make changes to the name of the professional body for teachers, to change the composition of the elected and appointed council members, and to provide for appointment of a Council chair from both elected and appointed members.

We are in support of the bill and especially welcome the proposal to include teacher education representation, s.380(I)iv. We note that the position is suggested as one for a teacher educator from initial and ongoing teacher education, however we would urge that it be focussed on initial teacher education. Rationale for this is in the fact that ongoing teacher education issues are already able to be championed by sector practitioner and leadership positions on the Council. The appointment of a unique initial teacher education position will allow for unique initial teacher education issues to be raised as part of system-wide consideration and development of the profession.

Furthermore, we would like to endorse the proposal in s.380(2) whereby the appointment of the chair of the Council may be from either elected or appointed members. This change, along with the expanded membership will we believe, result in more trust and confidence in the professional body as it works to support change and growth with the profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on these proposals. Should you require any further information or clarification on this submission, please contact the named submitters below.

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