

International Travel Report

New Zealand – Education - Curriculum “Roadshow”

Electorate Business

22 October to 24 October 2025

Member: Ann-Marie Hermans MLC

Shadow Assistant Minister for Community Safety

Member for the South-Eastern Metropolitan Region

Reason for travel and dates and locations for business.

At the invitation of the Minister for Education, I was able to secure an opportunity to attend the Education Roadshow which was launching and training New Zealand educational principals, Deputy principals, teachers and educational leaders in the new curriculum and pedagogical focus, designed to improve learning outcomes in New Zealand.

I attended a full day of the educational launch and curriculum roadshow in Auckland on October 24.

Before attending the Roadshow, I visited a primary school Three Kings in Auckland on 22 October.

I had several meetings with School Principals and Deputy Principals, Educational leaders and teachers in New Zealand from 23 October. School visits did not take place on 23 October 2025 due to a national pay strike which involved several unions, including one of the two teachers' unions, and unfortunately, this resulted in school closures.

Travel Diary

22 October – School Visit, Meeting with School Leaders. Dinner with Minister and Educational speakers cancelled due to inclement weather conditions that impeded flying arrangements from Wellington.

23 October – Strike – Schools closed – Meetings (formal and informal) with principals, teachers and school leaders.

24 October – New Zealand Curriculum Roadshow – Auckland, NZ. Participation in the Opening Ceremony in Auckland, NZ, and various meetings with Minister Stanford, Ministry of Education staff, Guest speakers including Rt Hon. Sir Nick Gibb from the United Kingdom, Pauline Clever from NZ Curriculum Centre, and others.

The town, city or suburb in which the accommodation was located; and the value of the accommodation (if claiming the cost of accommodation)

October 22

- Arrived between midnight 21 October and 1am on Wednesday, October 22 2025. Stayed at Pullman Auckland Airport Hotel.
- Visit Three Kings Primary School, Te Tatua O Rakataura, Auckland, Tour and meetings with educational leaders and teachers.
- Meeting with NZ Principal and DP. Dinner with Ministry of Education and Minister cancelled due to flight delays and storm in Wellington.
- Car travel and stayed at Sudima, Auckland City.

October 23

- **Strike – visits to schools postponed.**
- Formal and informal meetings with principals, teachers etc about educational changes. Auckland.
- Dinner with Ministry of Education, guest speakers, and Minister cancelled due to flight delays from the storm in Wellington.

October 24

- **Full Day – 8am to 4pm - New Zealand Education Curriculum Roadshow, North Barbour Stadium, Stadium Drive, Auckland.**
- 6.35pm Depart for Melbourne

The mode and value of commercial transport (if claiming the cost of commercial transport)

Return Flights – Only up to \$1811.90 due to internal travel cap.

Member's objectives

Having spent time with principals and educational leaders from New Zealand while on the education tour in Finland in September/October, I became interested in the major national education reform launching with the Education Department, the Minister for Education and a number of educational experts in New Zealand.

At the invitation of the Minister for Education, I was able to secure an opportunity to attend the Education Roadshow which was launching and training New Zealand educational principals, Deputy principals, teachers and educational leaders in the new curriculum and pedagogical focus, designed to improve learning outcomes in New Zealand.

1. To learn about the changes in curriculum focus and pedagogical practise in New Zealand, particularly in Maths and Literacy to improve learning outcomes and to see why, how and in what way New Zealand was rolling out a nation-wide reformation in education.
2. To compare and contrast educational differences in schools, learning, pedagogical approaches and curriculum focus between New Zealand and Australia.
3. To identify ways we can improve our schools and education in Victoria
4. To network with key stakeholders and to learn from their understanding and perspectives.
5. To visit school, meet with educational leaders and principals to learn new ways of improving educational outcomes, develop improved educational policy focuses and approaches for Victorian schools, teachers, methods of pedagogy, curriculum and overall education.

Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any)

- Three Kings School and the New Zealand Curriculum Roadshow
Note: Teacher's Strike (prevented further school visits)
- Engaged in meetings with educational leaders, employees of the Ministry of Education and Minister Erica Stanton.

- Evidence-based educational reforms included significant changes and returns to increasing and improving maths learning, phonetic literacy skills combined with other methods, improvements in reading, knowledge learning and explicit teaching methods.

Reference to documents or publications obtained or considered to be of interest in a Parliamentary sense

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/strengthening-initial-teacher-education-workforce-governance>

<https://planmyevent.eventsair.com/curriculum-roadshow/programme>

Study areas pursued:

- Education – Policy, pedagogy refreshment, curriculum changes in New Zealand, school site visit, National educational reform, empirical research for educational changes and the need to improve NZ learning outcomes, educational leadership feedback meetings etc.

Summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising

Victoria has implemented some of the changes that New Zealand is embarking on, e.g. knowledge-based curriculum, and vocational accredited training as a school pathway.

After viewing the New Zealand changes, my concern is that our knowledge-based curriculum in Victorian schools is too cluttered, often with politically biased learning material, and is often not derived from significant evidence-based priorities. What we currently offer in Victorian schools is ideologically skewed and politically driven, rather than critically evaluated. Therefore, the learning does not provide students with the knowledge they require to enhance their educational ability, as per the research and intention of prioritising knowledge-based curriculum.

Other concerns that I left with was an awareness that in Victoria we have a lack of uniformity in teacher-preparedness, and student learning skills, with an over-cluttered curriculum, and our system, training and methods result in unrealistic expectations on Victorian teachers who are experiencing failing learning outcomes and distorted and distracting learning priorities.

Viewing an international roll-out which was done well, and participating in the opening of the “Roadshow” in Auckland with the Minister and officials was a wonderful experience. I found the Minister for Education and her Education Ministry team to be intelligent, committed, inclusive, and using evidence-based foundations for their changes.

The educational shift in New Zealand was inspiring and exciting, particularly as it has been founded on grounded empirical evidence with tested outcomes. To see other nations focusing on learning skills that are genuinely useful rather than promoting the Labor and Greens’ politically charged worldview was refreshing.