

# **Post Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA) submission to the Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety**

## **Preamble**

PPTA represents 18,500 secondary teachers and principals, and manual and technology teachers, in New Zealand. Approximately 94% of eligible teachers chose to join PPTA.

## **Endorsement of CTU submission**

PPTA is an affiliate union of the CTU and fully endorses all the points in their submission to the Taskforce. In particular, that *key changes are needed for the Ministry to be required to regulate prescriptively and clearly where necessary, the inspectorate bolstered, a system of roving worker reps introduced, and strong regulation that protects workers' rights.*

## **Health and Safety participation in secondary schools and technology centres**

PPTA believes it is vital that schools have compulsory employee participation in health and safety. More specifically, there must be funding for the training of worker representatives. At present, funding must come from operational grants and is not often, unless there's been a serious incident, a priority for schools that are run by predominantly parent-based boards of trustees. Parent boards in the main focus on the learning and curriculum for students.

There are approximately 320 secondary schools across New Zealand, but PPTA presently has only 124 identified worker representatives (Less than 50%). Moreover, only 64 of those worker representatives have received any form of training for their important role.

Secondary schools are also important in the development of worker knowledge of the Health and Safety in Employment Act. Most New Zealand workers come through secondary schooling, so it's important that secondary schools model good behaviour and 100% compliance in regards to Health and Safety legislation and practise.

## **Conclusion**

It is very sad that it took a major tragedy to trigger a review of health and safety in New Zealand. The Independent Taskforce needs to lead New Zealand towards much higher standards of workplace health and safety that puts people before profits.