

**1. SUBMISSION ON REVIEW OF LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY
AND THE SCHOOL YEAR**

RR 9983

Officer responsible Jonathan Fletcher	Author OSP Working Group (Community Services Unit) and the Recreation and Arts Team (Leisure Unit)
Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of a submission on the discussion paper about the current Review of the Length of School Day and the School Year.

INTRODUCTION

On approval by the Community Services Chairperson a submission on the Discussion paper was prepared and submitted to the working group. A copy of this submission is attached.

BACKGROUND

The Review of the Length of School Day and the School Year Discussion Paper and a questionnaire based on the discussion paper were released in late April for consultation. Responses were due by **28 May 1999**.

The paper was prepared by a Working Group comprising Hon Margaret Austin, Irene Cooper, Principal of Hillcrest Normal School, Wayne Edwards, Professor of Education Massey University, Alister Peat, President NZPTA, Awi Riddell, Education Consultant, John Tai, Principal Motueka High School. The Terms of reference of the Working Party included considering issues such as:

- Engaged time needed to deliver to students quality education that meets national curriculum requirements relevant to the needs of the 21st century
- The terms, holidays and school day lengths for different age groups and other factors relating to schools' needs to provide quality education
- Parental, community and workforce requirements and expectations of students' attendance at school
- The balance between national consistency and local flexibility

The focus of the discussion paper was the length of the school day and school year including “engaged learning” time. The Working Party sought feedback on issues such as:

- Formal hours of instruction
- “Open for instruction” specification
- Extending school year
- Perpetuating the difference in the school year for primary and secondary schools
- How time is allocated and used in school to deliver the curriculum
- Teachers’ conditions of work
- Management and who determine term times
- Use of school facilities

SUBMISSION

A brief submission was prepared and sent to the Working Group. The submission focused on the proposals discussed in the document which would have a direct affect on the Council’s role and activities. A copy of the submission is attached.

Recommendation: That the submission on the review of the length of the school day and the school year, as previously forwarded, be confirmed by Council.