

# PPTA position on Online Schools

This policy was passed at the February 2017 PPTA Executive meeting.

1. THAT PPTA does not support the creation of COOLs<sup>1</sup> on the basis that:
  - a. private for-profit providers do not have a good track record of educational provision;
  - b. competition between online providers and brick and mortar schools is not a sound basis for improvement of the education system;
  - c. full time online learning must have managed and restricted entry for school age students; and
  
2. THAT PPTA supports the development of online learning in order to:
  - a. provide students access to subjects or particular learning opportunities at a school that they are enrolled at which may not be able to offer them in a face-to-face class;
  - b. provide access to education for students who are isolated or unable to attend regular schools;
  - c. provide access to education for students who are unable to attend public schools for other reasons, such as health or alienation from the school system;
  - d. support teachers to teach their specialist subjects;
  - e. support teachers to access professional learning and development;
  - f. enrich and supplement face-to-face learning for all students; and
  
3. THAT in all cases online education which is part of the compulsory schooling sector, whether full time or blended should:
  - a. be delivered by New Zealand registered teachers;
  - b. be free to students/parents, i.e. fully funded by the government;
  - c. be based on the New Zealand Curriculum / Te Marautanga;
  - d. ensure the physical and emotional well-being of students;
  - e. be fully accountable via the Education Review Office and subject to the Official Information Act;
  - f. be funded on the basis of actual costs incurred in delivering an education that meets the above tests, and recognises schools' fixed costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Communities of Online Learning as described in the Education (Update) Amendment Bill 2016