

**8 April 2020**

**To:** Honourable Chris Hipkins (Minister of Education)  
**From:** Daryl Streat (President, [TESOLANZ](http://TESOLANZ.org.nz))  
**Regarding:** Learning from Home / Online Provision for English Language Learners

Dear Minister Hipkins,

TESOLANZ expresses thanks for the work completed under the Ministry of Education's guidance to support learners during the current COVID-19 crisis. We appreciate that this will have taken a great deal of effort in a short time. At this time, we seek clarification on a few issues.

We welcome the School Special Bulletin (2 April) and the Minister's details of additional support for students (8 April). In particular, the provision of devices and internet access will be of considerable assistance to many English language learners (ELLs). We also commend the decision to focus on 'areas of greatest need first'. This was defined in the School Special Bulletin as "students in senior secondary school working towards NCEA and those with greatest need due to disadvantage."

TESOLANZ believes that ELLs, especially those who are new migrants or from refugee backgrounds, should be included in the latter group of "those with greatest need due to disadvantage." Disadvantages for this group of students include:

- limited time available for ELLs in secondary schools to close the language gap with their peers
- a lack of language or knowledge required to manage online learning across the curriculum

Therefore, we would like to clarify if:

- consideration has been given to ELLs who need support (for example, bilingual support) to engage remotely, beyond the provision of devices, internet access, hard-copy packs, or television channels.
- hard-copy packs and online resources to be provided include materials that are adapted appropriately for ELLs - both for ESOL and other subject areas.
- Professional Learning & Development (PLD) to support teachers and leaders to work remotely with their students includes support for ESOL teachers and other staff working with English language learners.

We appreciate that much needs to be done in a very short time and we commend you for your continued efforts. We kindly request that the needs of this group of learners are fully considered in the planning and roll-out of support.

Sincerely,



**Daryl Streat**  
President - TESOLANZ  
[president@TESOLANZ.org.nz](mailto:president@TESOLANZ.org.nz)  
Mob +64 27 455 6514