



# PARENTS OF VISION IMPAIRED (NZ) INC

National Office: 59 Commerce Street, Frankton, Hamilton

Postal address: PO Box 5629, Frankton, Hamilton 3242

[www.pvi.org.nz](http://www.pvi.org.nz)

*Providing a community to support parents of children with vision impairments*

9 July 2021

Tēnā koutou,

Please find attached a submission from Parents of Vision Impaired NZ Inc., on the Holidays (Parent-Teacher Interview Leave) Amendment Bill.

We would like to speak to this submission.

Ngā mihi,

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## About us

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Parents of Vision Impaired NZ Inc (PVI) is a registered charity which supports parents who have blind, low vision, or vision-impaired children. There is no cost to enrol and we provide a supportive community of parents who are overcoming challenges every day. Our current membership is at just over 1300 active members, with close to 800 email subscribers.

PVI offers parents advice, information, and opportunities to meet other parents. We publish a quarterly newsletter (eVision) and have a members-only Facebook page for families and whānau to share information and to network. PVI also runs an annual conference and AGM which allows parents and whānau to get together face to face for a longer time to talk, listen and learn in a social setting.

Additionally, PVI takes an active part in the disability sector through making sure that the voice of visually impaired children and their parents is heard in consultations with government, schools, local councils, and other organisations.



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## Our submission

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PVI is in support of amending the Holidays Act 2003 in order to allow workers with children to take four hours leave each year to attend parent-teacher interviews.

Parents of a blind, deafblind, low vision or vision impaired child who receive Ongoing Resource School (ORS) funding are expected to attend regular Individual Education Plan meetings (IEP's), which occur in addition to parent-teacher interviews. Those families who do not receive ORS funding may also have IEP's for their child, depending on level of need and educational approach by the school/parent.

IEP's are generally around an hour in length, occur with the team of professionals involved with their child's education, and are where the team discuss and set educational goals for their child. Depending on the school and the needs of the child, IEP's occur termly, six-monthly, or annually.

It is important that parents attend their child's IEP, but attendance can be difficult for parents who work outside the home. This Bill will better support our parents (many of whom are in employment) to attend their child's IEP and reduce one of the stressors (needing to take unpaid leave) associated with parenting a blind, deafblind, low vision, or vision impaired child.

Therefore, PVI supports the Holidays (Parent-Teacher Interview Leave) Amendment Bill as it is written and is of the opinion that this Bill will work to support parents/whānau of a blind, deafblind, low vision or vision impaired child or young person who is attending school.

We would like to speak to our submission.