



14 December 2023

Hon Erica Stanford  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Email: Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Stanford

## **EDUCATION PORTFOLIO**

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education. We look forward to working with you over this term.

Engineering New Zealand is New Zealand's largest professional body for engineers, with more than 23,000 members dedicated to engineering better lives for the people of New Zealand. Engineering New Zealand also regulates the engineering profession, as the Registration Authority for Chartered Professional Engineers (Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002).

Engineers are critical to New Zealand's economic development, generating approximately 5.5 percent of GDP. We estimate that there are approximately 77,000 engineers in New Zealand (3 percent of the workforce) and we need at least 2,300 each year to sustain current and projected economic growth.

We are worried about New Zealand's science, technology, engineering and maths education. Attached to this letter is a briefing on forecasted shortages in engineering skills. Urgent intervention in our public education system is needed to ensure New Zealand can develop future talent. New Zealand has a long history of engineering shortages, with engineers often frequenting Immigration New Zealand's long term skills shortage lists. Engineering skill shortages are set to reach critical levels soon without Government intervention.

As the Minister of Education, we would like to speak to you about the performance of our public education system and options to strengthen the system so that we are preparing the country for the skills it needs in the future. With your support we can change anticipated shortfalls.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Education portfolio and are available at your convenience.

Nāku, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Templer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and the last name "Templer" clearly visible.

**Dr Richard Templer**  
Chief Executive

Included      Engineering skills shortage briefing