

## NCHENZ AGM 2009-06-21 Coordinators Report

The past year has seen some important achievements for the National Council. Membership, for both individuals and groups, continues to grow, albeit slowly. The website has had a substantial make-over, and our thanks to webmaster Tarnya for the huge amount of time she has put into this project. Her efficiency and creativity have resulted in considerable improvements. These have included updated information about government departments, blogs concerning the activities of homeschoolers and issues relevant to homeschoolers. The resources and links pages have also been updated.

In conjunction with AHE, a meeting with the ERO in late 2008 proved very positive and continued the process of building better relationships with government departments. In January a member of the National Council met with a Correspondence School officer to discuss the new Young Adult enrolment scheme for students aged 16-19. Homeschoolers were being told they must give up their exemptions to enrol in this category. This problem was resolved when it was pointed out to TCS that, technically, exemptions expire at age 16. The National Council was pleased to have a role in seeing this issue sorted out.

A meeting with Heather Roy, Associate Minister of Education, was very constructive and encouraging. ACT is very supportive of homeschooling as it fits well within its philosophy. We also saw the benefit of previous liaison work by East Auckland member of NCHENZ with Deborah Coddington, a former ACT MP. As a result of the meeting with Heather various questions were presented to the MOE on our behalf. The most important information obtained through this process was that homeschoolers are not required to follow the new National Standards soon to be implemented in state schools.

Unfortunately, over the last six months the committee has faced various problems which have affected its ability to function fully. One of these issues is the loss of the

previous auditor who had provided his services pro bono. One consequence of these problems is that a financial statement will not be available for the AGM.

The committee is confident that the problems can be resolved and that effective functioning can be restored. A financial statement should be available within a few weeks for approval by the membership.

There are some issues that need to be addressed by the National Council in the coming year. In light of the current high cost of auditing, the constitutional requirement for audited accounts needs to be reviewed. Ways of increasing the membership, of both individual and groups, should be looked at. The question of whether the constitution should be amended to achieve charitable status has also been raised.

The future for the National Council looks promising. The objectives and aspirations of the organisation are still relevant, to enhance the profile of homeschooling in New Zealand, to continue to build positive relationships with other homeschooling groups and government departments.