

## 'ENZ supports tightening of Guardian Visa regulations'

---

**Education New Zealand: Media Release 22/05/2006**

'The move by Immigration Minister Hon. David Cunliffe to tighten up on guardianship visa regulations is timely, effective and supports the original intent of these visas' says Robert Stevens, Chief Executive of Education New Zealand. 'We fully support the changes, and the way in which the Government has responded quickly to support international education.'

'Education New Zealand has been working on this issue for some months' says Robert Stevens. 'A number of schools had brought this matter to our attention, and were concerned that the guardians may not be focussing on their prime role – looking after the students. Over the last few months we have lobbied Government on this issue, and are delighted that the Minister has recognised and shared these concerns – and that he has acted quickly to modify the scheme to reflect its original purpose' says Robert Stevens.

'Although only around 10% of guardianship visa holders have actually transitioned to another visa status, we could see a growing trend. The scheme is not about long-term migration, it is about ensuring that very young international students are looked after out of school hours by those who can best care for them. The tightening of the regulations around this specific purpose visa make it possible for schools to be confident that guardians are not distracted from their core responsibilities, and that schools can plan and budget effectively'.

'The Guardianship Visa is a practical innovation that helps us deliver the best education in the best interests of the student and these timely changes will ensure that the purpose of the Guardian Visas is strengthened and protected' says Robert Stevens. 'This is an excellent example of industry-Government partnership in action – developing effective policy that works for all parties. Industry welcomes this responsive cooperation, and looks forward to ongoing positive interaction on the wide range immigration and other policy issues that affect international education in New Zealand'.

Ends

**Robert Stevens**

Chief Executive, Education New Zealand

**TEL:** 04 472 0788

**MOBILE:** 021 472 079

**E-MAIL:** [robert.stevens@educationnz.org.nz](mailto:robert.stevens@educationnz.org.nz)