



## Here a Vet. There a Vet. Everywhere a Police Vet. Education Vetting in New Zealand

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The introduction of mandatory police vetting for some types of employees in the education sector in New Zealand has changed the landscape in terms of guaranteeing the safety of children in our schools. Or has it?

Some two years on from the implementation of the vetting and safety checking components of the Vulnerable Children’s Act 2014 (the “Act”), is the purpose of the Act being achieved? Vetting in the education sector currently makes up almost 30% of all police vetting enquiries in New Zealand. This has created significant delays and has provided instances where schools circumvent the law in order to provide the necessary resources.

The New Zealand School Trustees Association (“NZSTA”) provides employment support to Boards of Trustees and is well placed to comment on the issues through its involvement in advising in excess of 2,400 Boards of Trustees throughout New Zealand.

This presentation seeks to highlight the unintended issues that have arisen, examine the factors that have contributed to them and discuss ways to mitigate or remove the risk to schools. It will take a look at the problem the legislation was designed to address, how that has worked in the education setting and suggested changes needed to ensure that the Act is delivering on its purpose.