

Hekia Parata

Former Minister of Education (New Zealand)



Hon Hekia Parata was Minister of Education for New Zealand from 2011-2017. Her record can be measured in the significant lift (overall to 85%) in achievement by all population cohorts of 16-17 year olds in New Zealand's National Certificate of Achievement; particularly by those groups who had, historically, been systematically failed by the system. A similar lift (to 98%) in participation in early childhood education by 5 year old new entrants to schooling was also measured, during this period.

Hekia Parata understands the recipe for education success: the criticality of quality teaching and leadership, family engagement and high community expectations, supported by the power of highly functioning system design, centred around the student. And courageous political leadership and support.

She now advises internationally on whole of system design for measurable gain by children and young people.