

16 June 1983

NZFKU 1983 ANNUAL MEETING

REPORT ON BUILDING CODE

At the 1982 annual meeting, I delivered a paper setting out general concerns of the movement and myself in relation to the high cost of new kindergarten buildings. In that paper I concluded:

1. The department should be approached to phase out the use of standard plans to be replaced by kindergarten units designed for each specific case.
2. A dialogue with the department should be commenced in respect to the building code with the aim of dispensing with all but the type of information contained in the "Educational Considerations" Section.

I wish to report that following the favourable reaction of conference to that paper, negotiations were commenced with officers of the department, and I am pleased to report the following:

1. The Department has agreed that standard plans will be phased out and that boards will be advised that where they are not already doing so, new kindergartens should be designed specifically for the site involved. Further, it has been accepted by the department that the decision to use the Boards Architectural services or not will remain the sole responsibility of Associations.
2. After initial favourable discussions with the department on my suggestion of a minimal building code, I prepared a draft manual that basically had three components:
 1. Minimum play area requirement
 2. Maximum cost per child space
 3. Provision that all appropriate standards, codes of practices, statutory regulations and local authority by-laws be complied with

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Sites having abnormal conditions would be able to apply for an additional subsidy.

Architects in designing new buildings (or the refurbishing of existing buildings) must ensure that the over-all design complies in principle with the educational considerations sections of the manual which were as the existing code with some minor adjustments.

The department has now liaised with Playcentre and the EBA and has had further discussions with ourselves and subject to some minor expansion to the wording suggested by us, the new manual is expected to be released in August 1983 and hopefully this years new and refurbished buildings will be constructed under this new manual.

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