

# Building connections and growing sector skills

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A key focus for Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) Sectors and Skills team is to collect sector expertise and insights. This builds our internal industry and sector knowledge base, essentially helping us to continue to make informed and consistent decisions.

A few weeks ago we invited the CEO of [Icehouse](#) to a session with the Visa Services residency team to address some of the challenges relating to the Tech sector.

Last week we focussed on the Education sector and teachers in particular, an opportune time given that New Zealand schools are struggling to fill teaching roles across the country and overseas teachers have increasingly become critical in filling those roles.

We invited Education Personnel, one of only two Ministry of Education accredited teacher recruitment agencies, to share their years of knowledge and expertise with our Auckland based Visa Services teams from Manukau, Henderson and Queen Street. Our objective was to improve the understanding of what is involved with international teacher recruitment.

It is hoped that this type of forum will improve the understanding and empathy of both parties which will in turn lead to better outcomes.

Education Personnel thanked INZ for their willingness to prioritise applications.

"We jumped at the opportunity to be able to talk with the INZ Visa Services teams in Auckland about the processes teachers need to go through to be able to teach in NZ," said Annalise Turner, Overseas Teacher Liaison, Education Personnel.

"The processes are really technical and specific so it was great to be able to update the immigration team on the teaching labour market and how teacher employment processes work.

With teachers becoming harder and harder to find in NZ, the assistance given by Paul Millar and Immigration NZ to help schools and ECE centres get teachers into NZ ready for start of terms has been amazing. We really value the relationship and support...as do our schools."

For INZ teams, connecting sector experts is a great way to give our customers a voice, share sector knowledge and insights internally and last but not least to work more closely with our colleagues across branches.

A special mention of thanks to the London office who often deal with visa applications at the start of each school year.

