



## **From Russell Ballantyne, National President, EC-MENZ**

Kia ora e te kaupapa whānau,

Ngā mihi mahana, warm greetings to you all. I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

At our 2019 EC-MENZ Annual General Meeting in Whanganui a proposal was made to consider changing the name of our organisation. The reasoning was that our current name is perceived by some sectors of the early childhood community to represent a male-only group. This is, of course, far from the truth! EC-MENZ has always had strong representation from wāhine, including on our national committee.

A further idea raised in support of a name change was to enable the organisation to widen our focus to include more diverse issues with the aim of creating an inclusive ECE teaching population. With our society's evolving understanding of gender (including a move away from a simple male-female binary view) there is much work to be done before we have a teaching profession that is truly representative of our wider society in Aotearoa.

To summarise, the points made in support of a name change....

To remove the idea that we are an organisation solely for males

To enable our kaupapa (to support and celebrate the many roles of men in ECE) to be seen as an important part of the larger issue of diversity in the teaching profession

To enhance our appeal to other ECE groups, political partners, and sponsors

To widen our membership and support base.

Concerns raised by the idea of a name change .....

That the original kaupapa of EC-MENz might be lost amongst other issues

That renaming the organisation may mean losing the significant traction EC-MENz has built up across the sector over the last 15 years

That a new name may not have the same direct and obvious link to our core mission.

We really value your opinion on these ideas! There is a link to a survey below that will only take moments of your time, but will have a big influence on how our organisation looks going forward. Alternatively, please feel free to contact myself or National Vice-President Robin Christie directly.

Please always remember that we are part of the most important profession of all. Together we are making the world a better place for young children, their whānau, and society as a whole.

Thank you for your time.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Russell

On behalf of the EC-MENz National Committee

To contact Russell - [rsballantyne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rsballantyne@xtra.co.nz)

To contact Robin – [robin@childspace.nz](mailto:robin@childspace.nz)

EC-MENz (Inc.) is a registered charity under the NZ Charities Act (2005)

Please respond to the survey at the following link. There are only three short questions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3WJ9QLZ>

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey, we value your opinion.

We will send a follow up email in a few weeks. Please also note down in your diaries that we will have an online AGM via Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 July 2020. We will provide a link to this Zoom meeting closer to the time.

**Our wonderfully diverse whānau who attended our 2019 hui at Noah's Ark in Whanganui**

