



Epsom Girls
Grammar School

6 June 2013

Media Diary Note

Media are invited to attend

Date: Friday 7 June 2013

Time: 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Location: EGGS Sport Centre

Education Minister to visit Epsom Girls Grammar School

The Honourable Hekia Parata, Minister of Education and the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs will visit Epsom Girls Grammar School on Friday 7 June, 2.30pm to 3.30 pm.

The Minister will meet with Acting Principal Sarah Stenson, Chair of the Board of Trustees Dr Gerald Young and head girl Arizona Leger to discuss e-learning, the sports complex, classrooms /study rooms, student achievement and how Māori students are benefiting from the school's initiatives.

Stenson says that they welcome the Minister's visit and the opportunity to show-case the school's achievements. The school, which embraces the concepts of Leading Women and Modern Learning to provide students with the best opportunities and resources for their education journey, is championing its Leading Women in Sport campaign.

Stenson says: "Traditionally, sport is known to have a positive impact on young girls in terms of health but participation in sport and physical activity can also lead to better academic and social skills. We know that sports can give young girls self-confidence and leadership tools for life. The campaign is to raise \$7 million to build a Sports Complex that will provide much-needed facilities that both the students and our community can use."

Head girl, Arizona Leger, who is of Māori / Pacific Island descent, is a stellar example of the school's acknowledgement and responsive approach to meet the needs of Māori and other cultures.

Arizona says: "Sports are really important to me; it's a big part of my upbringing and has influenced who I am today. New facilities like the Sports Complex will help students lead the way to future sporting success."

To make a donation go to: www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/sports-complex

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Media Contact

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MEDIA NOTES

Hon Hekia Parata - Biography



Biography

Hekia Parata is currently the Minister of Education and the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs.

Hekia grew up in a Ruatoria and is of Ngati Porou and Ngai Tahu descent.

Hekia attended Manutahi Primary School, Ngata Memorial College and Gisborne Girls High School before completing a MA at Waikato University, where she was also President of the Waikato Students Union.

Hekia has lived and worked in Wellington for most of the past 30 years during which time she has worked in both the public and private sector, holding senior policy and management positions and running a successful consultancy company with her husband Sir Wira Gardiner, advising clients in New Zealand and internationally.

She has represented New Zealand at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, DC, and at a number of multinational forums including the South Pacific Forum, the United Nations Forum, the World Bank Forum and a number of international indigenous forums.

Hekia came to Parliament after the General Election in November 2008. "I believe that the role of the Government is to create an environment of opportunity and choice, enterprise and growth; to provide high quality education and health services and law and order; to invest in and reward self-reliance, personal accountability, and an attitude of reciprocal obligation; to support families and communities to be self-determining and self-directed; and to limit the size and intrusion of the state so that people can be powerful actors in their own lives."

She served as the Minister of Women's Affairs, Minister for Ethnic Affairs, the Acting Minister of Energy and Resources, and Associate Minister for ACC and for the Community and Voluntary Sector under the previous John Key Government.

Hekia and Sir Wira have two teenage daughters. Outside of her family and work she enjoys reading, movies and netball. She has competed in the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge and completed both a triathlon and a half marathon. She is both astonished and proud.