

Violence in Schools

Dr BROAD question to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My constituent question is from a Devonport Primary School teacher. In what other job would you get verbally abused, bitten, spat on, hit, punched and kicked, all whilst you are trying to keep yourself as safe as well as 27 or so others also teaching these students the curriculum? This is the reality many teachers face every single day. Behind classroom doors educators are not only developing lessons, but they're also managing escalating behaviours, de-escalating conflict and protecting students from themselves and from harm. What should be a safe environment for learning can quickly become unpredictable and, at times, dangerous. Teachers are expected to remain calm under pressure and respond with empathy while they are being physically hurt and continue teaching as though nothing happened, but they also carry the emotional weight of these incidents long after the bell rings, often without time resources or the support they truly need. When is the minister going to get serious about violence in schools?