



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President
Peter Gall
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Dear Colleagues

Thank you to the large number who responded to the questionnaire sent last week. The responses are being collated at the moment and, along with information from recent research and reports on New Zealand principalship, will form the basis of our submission to those involved with negotiation of the Secondary Principals' Collective Agreement.

The changes to NAG 5 recently accounted by the Minister have attracted considerable comment in the media and amongst principals. Mission-On is a worthwhile and laudable campaign and I am sure all principals agree with the intended outcome of improving the health and lifestyle choices of our students. With regards to the healthy eating aspect of the campaign, many schools and canteen operators have accepted the challenge and have already reviewed the types and variety of food and beverages sold on school grounds. Schools do have a role in our society of setting standards, whether we agree with this or not. One could put forward a very strong case to say that the standards we expect within our schools are much higher than those accepted within the wider community, and this is a vastly changed situation from times gone by where general standards in society and schools were fairly closely aligned. Think of language and common courtesies as examples.

That the government has legislated for schools to only have 'healthy' food and beverage options for sale on their campuses comes across as being heavy-handed and overly bureaucratic. The National Administration Guidelines are the crux of the governance of our schools by boards and any change to them needs to be carefully considered and well consulted on. Very importantly the following questions need to be answered:

- What is the purpose of this change?
- What is the likely impact of this change?

If the purpose is indeed to improve the diet of all young people in this country, does the government truly believe that changing NAG 5 will achieve this? Or perhaps was the purpose of the change aligned to generating some publicity and the associated politics?

Have a great break.

Peter Gall
President