



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President

Peter Gall

Papatoetoe High School

President's Comment 12

The New Zealand Teachers' Council recently announced the introduction of its Graduating Teachers Standards, which can be accessed from the Teachers' Council website. This development is welcomed, although one could argue that they are not actually "standards" because they do not describe actual levels of performance. Nonetheless, they provide a useful guideline for teacher education providers and for principals.

Because of the requirements placed on providers to "develop a graduate profile for each programme that will be aligned with the Graduating Teacher Standards", it follows that student teachers on practicum in our schools will be assessed against the standards. It is important that the information that schools feed back to teacher education providers on their students is accurate and that we highlight any concerns. On occasion we get trainee teachers into our schools who are quite clearly not suited to the job and we need to inform the provider institutions of that. There is some cynicism expressed about providers willingly taking fees from trainees who have little chance of succeeding in the profession and I hope that correct application of the new standards will assist in improving the quality of those graduating and, most importantly, of those being accepted into teacher training courses in the first place.

Annual PA's Conference.

The annual SPANZ organised conference for Principal's PA's/secretaries is in Rotorua on 26/27 July 2007. Registration details and a letter of invitation to your PA is attached. Our PA's appreciate this professional development and networking opportunity.

Peter Gall
President