



SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President's Comment 26

Dear Colleagues

The New Zealand Curriculum Advisory Group met recently for the second time. Linda Tame and Heather McCrae are the two Secondary Principals on the group.

Early results from the Waikato University on-line survey were presented. Very few Secondary Schools had responded (aren't we surveyed out?), so few representative conclusions for our sector can be drawn. However, anecdotal evidence is that quality professional conversations are taking place within and between schools, especially around the Key Competencies.

Rosemary Hipkins presented a report on progress with the Exploratory Studies into Key Competencies. A significant challenge that is now apparent is the fusing of the front and back ends of the document. The question being asked by learning area leaders is how to reflect the vision, values and key competencies in programmes.

Many Secondary Schools are awaiting drafts of the revised standards with great interest. Principle 4 of the review specifically refers to using the key competencies in the standards to differentiate endorsements. These principles are well worth reading and available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/docs/standards-review-bckground.pdf>

The Ministry of Education is planning several pieces of additional support material. The first is the Secondary Curriculum Companion Resource – Innovative Curriculum Design for Secondary School middle leaders. This is currently under development with a group of middle leaders co-constructing the resource. Also being developed are teaching and learning guides to support those subjects areas that lack specific sections in The New Zealand Curriculum Document.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Gall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Gall
SPANZ President