



SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

Secretariat Address

P O Box 11541, Ellerslie Auckland 1542
Phone: 09 571 2233 : Fax: 09 571 2244
Email: office@spanz.school.nz



Friday 22nd August 2008

President's Comment 24

Dear Colleagues

SCHOOLS PLUS – WHERE ARE WE AT?

The development of the Schools Plus policy is obviously being given high priority by government, with it being reported that eleven ministers and their ministries are involved in some way in its development. Secondary principals are supportive of the intent and goals of Schools Plus, and are well aware of the data (both for their own schools and at national level) that underpins the need for policy development to improve engagement levels of 16-18 year olds in meaningful education programmes. We now eagerly await the government's response to the initial consultation process that we all had the opportunity to be involved in and to get an indication perhaps of some of the practical implications for our schools.

The Ministry has provided the Minister with their summary findings of the initial consultation and sector groups have been informed that a government announcement can be expected soon. As an Association we have made it clear that secondary principals need to be kept 'in the loop' and we hope that further Schools Plus announcements are not linked to the election process but provided to schools as early as possible.

There is a two year implementation phase planned for Schools Plus and any required legislative change will be worked through in that time period.

Every four years the Olympic Games provide us with a reminder of what a great vehicle sport is to develop human potential, character and national pride. To those schools who have current or ex-students in our Olympic team (especially our medal winners), congratulations – because I have no doubt that the secondary school experiences that these fine New Zealanders were involved in have impacted on their success. You can feel justifiably proud and are entitled to celebrate.

Cheers.

Peter Gall
SPANZ President