



**SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.**

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Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**President's Comment 21**

Dear Colleagues

Last week the Ministry released the 2007 school leaver statistics via the [Education Counts](#) website. The attainment results for the cohort that left our schools last year show positive trends which is heartening news, however most would agree that there is scope for further improvement. Some summary data of interest:

- School leavers with at least NCEA Level 2                      66%                      (60% in 2006)
- School leavers with UE/Level 3 or higher                      39%                      (36% in 2006)
- School leavers with less than NCEA Level 1                      18%                      (24% in 2006)
- The 18% that left with less than NCEA Level 1 represents 10,200 students.
- Girls out perform boys at all levels but most significantly at the highest level – leavers with UE/Level 3 or higher (girls 45%, boys 33%).
- Achievement of Maori: attainment levels for Maori school leavers has improved at about the same rate as the national average, but the gap is still significant.  
Maori leavers with at least Level 2 = 44% (average = 66%).
- Retention to Year 13: This data shows that Maori students are more likely to leave school before Year 13 than other groups and this obviously is a significant factor in their attainment Levels.

|                                       |                    |     |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| School leavers from Year 13 or above: | Pakeha/NZ European | 66% |
|                                       | Pasifika           | 68% |
|                                       | Asian              | 87% |
|                                       | Other              | 78% |
|                                       | Maori              | 50% |

- Decile related data: The percentage of students that leave with UE/Level 3 increases incrementally as we go from decile 1 through to decile 10. The largest increment is from decile 9 to decile 10 at 15% (others are in the 2-5% range) and this is a similar trend to date for retention to Year 13.

This school leaver data is, I believe, the most important NCEA data that we receive as it gives valid comparisons from one year to the other and recognises that NCEA is a 'building block' type qualification. We are all keen to ensure that our students gain qualifications that befit their abilities on leaving school and gauge how well our schools are performing comparative to the national average.

It is disappointing and annoying that this important school leaver data is arriving as we are starting Term Three, and then it is only the national data with schools yet to receive the relevant data specific to them. I have requested at a number of forums involving both NOZA and MOE officials that this information be made available early in Term One and with ENROL now in place I see no reason why this can't be possible.



**Peter Gall**  
**SPANZ President**