



# SPANZ

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](mailto:office@spanz.school.nz)



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## President's Comment 20

Dear Colleagues

Earlier this week you received detail on the review of achievement and unit standards that is currently underway. The review represents a huge piece of work and the implications will be far reaching in the future shape of NCEA.

The development of the six principles that describe what a good standard looks like is a positive move. Quite clearly a large number of existing achievement and unit standards don't meet these benchmarks and will need to be re-written. Eventually this will require new assessment tasks to be developed and that presents an obvious workload issue for teaching staff and HODs in particular.

It is interesting to note that the principles do not distinguish between achievement and unit standards – does this then pave the way for a degree of convergence and having just one type of standard?

I think it is really important that we familiarise ourselves with the contents of the standards review paper and share that information with our teachers.

When we consider the work that will be required of our staff flowing on from this standards review as well as implementing the new curriculum, then it is imperative that the process be well planned and supported. The timeframe for the review process is tight given the scope of work but the new revised standards need to be published in the first half of 2009 so as to be offered in 2010.

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