



# 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)



President - Graham Young  
Tauranga Boys' College

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## Presidents' Comment 18

As a consequence of feedback from my Comment 15, I offer the following reflections:

- There is a risk of narrowing the focus of schools down to mere schooling
- Schooling is a necessary but not a sufficient component of education
- The moral test of a nation is how it educates its children, not how a nation schools its children
- If we put too much emphasis on standard-setting and targets, and reporting against those targets, then the role of a school will simply become one of being a credit accumulation agency
- We will only do it if it counts
- Targets and standards by themselves are a pragmatic response to the challenge of increasing student achievement
- Such an approach belongs to the quantitative paradigm – it is a scientific approach. It is analytical and empirical
- Which is ironic when one realises that education is one of the social branches of science – it is a humanistic branch
- Education is more qualitative, it is about quality of life. Education is an art and that is why advances in education do not produce a science of education
- We need now more than ever a vision for education

Education is about cultivating humanity. It is about transcendent human values. It is about humanity and not employability. It is about learning, not teaching. It is about knowledge, not information. It is individual, not generic. It is about qualities, not competencies. It is complex, not linear. The task of education quite simply is to make the world a better place. Thus we need to emphasise the moral purpose of schools and the qualitative aspects of education.

Graham Young  
President