



SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President's Comment 35

Dear Colleagues

The recent memorandum from NZQA and the MOE sent to our principals earlier this week on the standards review provides an update on this crucial piece of work. I believe that this information could and should have been distributed to principals much earlier. Nevertheless there is a relatively short time to provide feedback on the draft matrices and once again I urge you to encourage your teaching staff/departments to make a response. The timeline for implementing the new standards is tight – level 1 in 2010 – and I would welcome your thoughts on this. Is it realistic? What would be compromised by extending the timeline or retaining it?

I have also received some enquiries about the Moderation Best Practice workshops. The intent is to roll these out throughout the country so that at least each main subject area will have a workshop in each main centre by the end of next year. Some of these will be scheduled during holiday breaks. The venues for this year's workshops are determined by the amount of interest indicated for particular subject based workshops on a regional basis. NZQA officials have given assurance that the fees for the workshops merely cover expenses and there is no intent to generate revenue from them.

Road Safety Programme

Many secondary school students have benefited in recent years from the "Driving Towards a Future" road safety programme fronted by Billy TK Jnr. Next year the programme is being supported by Holden with motor racing star, Greg Murphy, being part of the team of presenters and they are also offering a cash incentive to schools and special discount offers. The programme comes at no cost to schools and is regionally based – your school will simply be invited to take part prior to it taking place in your area. Billy TK Jnr's presentation style is musically based, high energy, appropriate and appealing to young people. If you require further information about the 2009 Holden DTAF programme contact Billy TK Jnr on 021 138 7005.

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

Peter Gall
SPANZ President