



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

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11<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**President's Comment 6**

Dear Colleagues

Vice President Paul Daley represents members on a number of Special Education Groups and Forums and has been asked to comment back to the Office of the Auditor General on the findings in their Special Education performance audit.

They have been looking at the Ministry's management of support of the four high-needs initiatives for supporting students with Special Education needs, that is, ORRS, School High Health Needs Fund, the Speech Language Initiative and the Severe Behaviour Initiative. At this stage, they are seeking to check some of their findings in specific areas with educators and other interested parties, rather than to discuss the effectiveness of the Special Education policy as a whole.

Topics that they would like to discuss with Paul include schools' understandings of responsibility for providing support, perceptions of the level and intensity of need, the role of teacher aides assigned to special needs children, relationships with RTLBs, perceptions of assessment criteria, and the nature and usefulness of guidance provided by the Ministry. They are also interested in how schools view and use the Individual Education Plans for these children.

Special Education is an issue that generates debate among Principals around funding and equity and we now have an opportunity to have direct input into this important audit. Please comment directly to Paul by emailing [principal@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:principal@sanctamaria.school.nz) before midday this Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Hard data will carry more weight than anecdotal evidence. Thank you for your help and assistance with this.

Reminder: We have a good number of people attending our Symposium in Hamilton 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April. It is not too late to register.

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