

NCEA REVIEW 2018

by Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education



Too rushed
Minister Hipkins
Not enough thought.
Must do better
for our young people.

We are a coalition of Principals passionate about our young people and their secondary school education. We want the best possible education for the next generation – including a New Zealand qualification framework accessible to all students.

We agree a review of NCEA is necessary because the framework can be improved to better prepare our young people for the challenges ahead. But the review is flawed and we will not stand idle on the sidelines watching a fraught process pass us by.

THE NCEA REVIEW NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED:

1 There has been a lack of consultation with secondary school Principals.

The clear message given to Principals is that everyone has an equal voice in this process. 5 – 18 year olds have been targeted to enter competitions to ‘express themselves’ with prizes valued at over \$27,000. We suggest that those with experience in the sector (teachers and Principals) should have been asked directly for feedback. We are the guardians of young people’s secondary school education and believe our input is essential.

2 The Ministerial Advisory Group does not best represent the secondary sector.

There is one Principal in the group of 7. Our sector is diverse and we would expect to see Principals from the wide range of schools in our country in a group drafting a framework for the next 30 years.

With the leadership of Principals, the involvement of teachers and those who understand the value of a quality education, we can create a world class qualification for our children and future generations of young New Zealanders. It is essential we make the next iteration of NCEA one that is easily understood and valued by schools, whānau, parents, students, universities and employers.

3 The timeframes are too short.

Consultation to review our national qualification (for the next 30 years) has been given a 16 week timeframe. The discussion document was released on Sunday 27 May with consultation closing on Sunday 16 September. The process appears disingenuous.

4 This review is one of 13 current or pending reviews of the education sector.

Conducting 13 reviews within our sector simultaneously could be interpreted that the outcomes are predetermined, and that consultation is lip-service. To review NCEA seriously should be a major piece of work on its own, with a bipartisan approach and the endorsement of New Zealand secondary education leaders.

LET'S REVIEW THE REVIEW. REWIND, REORDER, AND REPRIORITISE:

A Fix Teacher Supply

The training, recruitment and retention of quality teachers should be our No 1 priority. This requires immediate and urgent attention if we are to have a supply of qualified people for our classrooms – to give our young people the quality education they deserve.

B Establish a Consensus on Curriculum

A national discussion on a core secondary curriculum needs to be had. To create an enduring qualification, the sector firstly needs to agree on what knowledge we want our students to learn in Year 11, 12 and 13.

C Review NCEA

With teacher supply secured and a curriculum in place, we would have a sound foundation to improve the existing NCEA assessment system. The starting point should be direct consultation with secondary school Principals.

Supported by the following Principals, Schools and past Principals.

Brent Lewis, Avondale College
Sandy Pasley, Baradene College
Craig Waller, Birkenhead College
Myles Hogarty, De la Salle College
Paul McKinley, Glenfield College
Steve McCracken, Kaipara College
Simon Lamb, King's College
Chris Rooney, Liston College

CJ Healey, Long Bay College
Steven Hargreaves, Macleans College
Nick Coughlan, One Tree Hill College
Patrick Gale, Rangitoto College
Nixon Cooper, Rosmini College
Gary Moore, Rutherford College
Jim Dale, Sacred Heart College
Robin Staples, Southern Cross Campus

Justine Mahon, St Cuthbert's College
Kieran Fouhy, St Paul's College
James Bentley, St Peter's College
Mark Shanahan, Waitakere College
Brian Evans, Wesley College
Byron Bentley, Past Principal Macleans College
John Taylor, Past Headmaster King's College
Tim O'Connor, Auckland Grammar School

Donald MacLean, Dilworth School
Heather McRae, Diocesan School for Girls
Michael Purcell, Henderson High School
Grant McMillan, James Cook High School
Adeline Blair, Kelston Boys' High School
Glen Denham, Massey High School
Patrick Drumm, Mt Albert Grammar School
Alex Reed, Pinehurst School

Mary Nixon, Takapuna Grammar School
Rockley Montgomery, Vanguard Military School
David Ferguson, Westlake Boys' High School
Jane Stanley, Westlake Girls' High School
John Morris, Past Headmaster Auckland Grammar

Principals and Schools who have not had the opportunity to join us, you are welcome to do so by contacting us at: principals@nceacoalition.co.nz

MINISTER HIPKINS IT'S TIME TO LISTEN!

**OUR GROUP ALONE REPRESENTS OVER 45,000 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE NUMBER IS GROWING.
LET'S REVIEW THIS PROPERLY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF NEW ZEALANDERS.**