

02 JUL 2019

Daryl Streat
president@tesolanz.org.nz

Dear Daryl

The Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, has asked me to respond to your email of 22 June 2019 sharing a position statement from TESOLANZ about how changes to NCEA will affect ESOL-funded and international students in secondary schools.

I agree it is important to consider how these groups will be affected by these changes. Throughout the engagement phase of the NCEA Review, extensive community engagement took place with English language learners (ELL) and their parents and whānau. This included focus groups with refugee, migrant and ethnic-minority communities.

The Ministry of Education is now engaging with the sector on the detailed design of the change proposals. We would certainly value your input into our decision-making, and are happy to meet with you to discuss the matters you have raised. You are welcome to contact the engagement team at NCEA.review@education.govt.nz, who will arrange this.

The changes to the NCEA literacy and numeracy requirements mean that these will be benchmarked at a level reflecting the literacy needed to succeed in education and life. This will be assessed through a 20 credit set of standards. Progress towards these standards will be supported by the use of trusted and consistent tools for monitoring literacy and numeracy development. These tools will support teachers to address the specific needs of learners and ensure they are supported effectively.

As an outcome of the detailed design work that is currently underway, the new literacy standards may be at a different level than the existing English Language (EL) and English for Academic Purpose (EAP) standards. This means that work will be needed to consider the role of the EL and EAP standards going forward, including pathways that incorporate these standards and/or the new standards, and clarifying the appropriate use of each option for different programmes and courses of learning.

It will be made clear to writers of the new standards that they need to ensure accessibility for all students, including ELL. This will include consideration for those students who arrive and begin NCEA at senior secondary school level.

We will also be working with the relevant owners of unit standards delivered as part of NCEA to consider how the principles of the NCEA Review could be applied to their standards over time. In the case of ELL, this is NZQA.

We are pleased to have Breda from your organisation as part of the Technical Advisory Group on the new literacy and numeracy requirements, and look forward to her input and advice going forward. In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please do get in touch with the engagement team.

Thank you again for writing, and for raising these important issues.

Yours sincerely



Richard D'Ath
Group Manager (Acting), Secondary Tertiary
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