

No NZQA Apology

Most people with a modicum of humility, empathy and emotional intelligence, apologise when they screw up. They know that eating humble pie is a fast and effective way to repair the damage and move forward constructively. Teachers do it and so do some Prime Ministers and Presidential Candidates. The same is true of some corporate and government organisations.

NZQA is not in this category. In the face of an unprecedented backlash, they refuse to acknowledge and apologise for the ill-conceived Algebra NCEA examination. A simple apology early on from NZQA would have avoided much angst and unwanted media attention. A refusal to do so is simply arrogant and speaks volumes about the organisational culture that can always be traced back to the top of the organisation.

NZQA “admitted its communication did not make the grade” (Stuff 21/9/16) and has made weak, verbal platitudes behind closed doors. This does not constitute an acceptable apology.

But don't worry NZQA. Many schools are now in the process of apologising to parents and students on your behalf. Thank you once again for devolving responsibility for your poor decisions and actions out to schools and teachers to deal with.

Guy Honore, Teacher