

Email to Parents

Subject: MCAT update

NZQA have stated they haven't had many complaints about the recent MCAT examination so I wonder, if you feel able to, if you would please take the time to make a complaint to:

NZQA (complaints)

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/make-a-complaint/make-a-complaint-about-nzqa/>

Hekia Parata (Minister for Education)

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/minister/hekia-parata>

Chris Hipkins (Labour Shadow Minister for Education)

chris.hipkins@parliament.govt.nz

I am attaching an example letter but if we all send exactly the same letters we will get a template answer - so we feel it would be best if letters and complaints were personalised.

Teachers are continuing to make submissions, as are Maths Associations around the country. The NZ Association of Maths Teachers has released a survey for all members to complete to collate responses.

We would hope for :

- an apology to students who sat the exam
- students to be given the best result of the MCAT exam or their derived grade exam
- assurance that the externals yet to be sat will be at the standard communicated to teachers

Kind regards

Margaret Priest (HOD Mathematics) and WGC Mathematics Department

Attachment:

To the Honourable Minister of Education, Hekia Parata,

We are writing to express our concern and dismay about the Level 1 Algebra Exam (commonly known as the MCAT), sat by my daughter last week. [Add in your particular comments/concerns]

I ask that you launch an enquiry into the processes at NZQA that allowed this exam to be given to year 11 students and also seek your reassurance, through NZQA, that the external mathematics exams that my daughter is going to be sitting at the end of the year will be at an appropriate level.

Currently, neither my daughter nor I have confidence that all the learning and studying that she has been doing this year is going to pay off, and this is causing her unnecessary stress.

Despite all the publicity in the paper and evidence provided of a poorly set exam, we have not yet read anything to indicate that NZQA has accepted responsibility for a poorly set exam and I urge you to demand that they issue a public acknowledgement and apology. This would go some way towards alleviating the anger, frustration and confusion caused to my daughter by this exam.

As Minister of Education, we are sure that you are as concerned as we are about the inadequate processes at NZQA and the ill effects that this exam has caused and we ask that you do everything within your power to investigate what went wrong and reassure NZ students, teacher and public that things will be put right.

We eagerly await your response and support.

Yours sincerely

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