

On 29 September 2016 at 14:11, Rosemary Colson wrote:

Kia ora Ms Chow

On behalf of Hon Hekia Parata, thank you for your email.

Your complaint has been noted by our office, and passed on for the Minister's information. As the New Zealand Qualifications Authority are responsible for exam qualifications and standards, I understand that NZQA will be responding to your complaint directly.

Kind regards,

Rosemary Colson

Private Secretary

Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

DDI 04 817 9304

rosemary.colson@parliament.govt.nz

On 2 October 2016 at 14:33, Karen Chow replied:

Good afternoon Rosemary,

It is with great frustration that I am e-mailing the office of Hekia Parata once more.

While the NCEA Level 1 MCAT was at an inappropriate level, the response from NZQA has been even more disappointing. Their inability to issue an apology to students and teachers and put forward a plan to ensure that such an error does not happen in the future is concerning. As you've stated, this issue falls under the umbrella of NZQA, not the Ministry of Education; however I have e-mailed NZQA and in the week since, they have not responded to my concerns.

I requested that the office of Hekia Parata speak directly to NZQA not only because the Ministry of Education should have general oversight on education, but because of how this assessment has negatively affected hard working students and the teaching community.

Mathematics teachers such as myself feel that our concerns are being ignored and that our professional opinions are being treated as meaningless white noise. At a time when mathematics is experiencing teaching shortages but the demand for qualified people in STEM is high, I feel as if the Ministry of Education should be taking a greater interest in this issue.

Currently the only response from the Ministry of Education are form letters that are patronising at best and at worst, my concerns are being passed around a government department who does not care about the future of our students.

I hope for a more meaningful and dynamic response in your next e-mail.

Regards,

Karen