

23 September 2016

Peter Webb
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Dear Peter

Thank you for your very detailed comments on the 2015 and 2016 MCAT assessments, which will be very helpful in informing the development of the 2017 assessments.


Although some teachers may have been unhappy with the 2015 MCAT the majority of concern conveyed to NZQA following the 2015 assessments was around the eMCAT assessment. The use of electronic assessment for the MCAT was therefore not repeated in 2016.

NZQA carefully considers all feedback it receives relating to assessment and we will pay particular attention to feedback on the MCAT assessments sat by students in 2016. We acknowledge that our normal communication processes (Circulars in November 2015 and May 2016) for conveying the changes to the assessment task to better align it with the requirements of the standard, did not adequately ensure that all teachers received the required information about the changes. Therefore, we recognise that some students understandably found it difficult when faced with an assessment that was different from what they expected and had prepared for.

It is not appropriate for NZQA to make detailed comment on specific questions while the normal marking process is underway. The assessment (marking) schedule will be published along with a detailed assessment report in Term 1, 2017. We do welcome all feedback, and as is our normal practice, all specific feedback about the MCAT will be forwarded to the assessment development team for their consideration as they prepare the 2017 MCAT assessment.

If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Kristine Kilkely
Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment