

15 DEC 2017

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DR: 1094262

Dear Jake

The Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, has asked me to reply to your email of 21 November 2017 about the NCEA Level 1 Maths Exam and the open letter to NZQA.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your concerns to NZQA. They have indicated that they will engage with maths teachers on the issues they have raised once this year's marking cycle has been completed.

NCEA assessment tasks, including those in exam settings, are designed to assess student's ability against the associated achievement standard and to distinguish if they have met a standard at the *achieved*, *merit* or *excellence* level. In any given assessment a portion of the students will find some questions challenging and some very difficult. If that balance is not achieved then the assessment task needs to be reviewed.

The Ministry and NZQA are always open to feedback from teachers when consulting on initiatives that impact on student's learning and achievement. Our agencies are committed to working with groups such as the New Zealand Association of Maths Teachers, to expand and strengthen our common understanding of issues related to the assessment of mathematics.

Next year there will be a broad review of NCEA, and I encourage you to use this opportunity to make your views heard.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Talbot  
**Group Manager, Secondary Tertiary  
Early Learning and Student Achievement**