**Review of the 2016 NCEA and NZ Scholarship Mathematics and Statistics examinations – Questions and Answers**

**Is NZQA implementing the recommendations arising from the Mathematics review?**

The review has given us the opportunity to reconsider our end-to-end processes relating to examinations and we are implementing the recommendations immediately so they are fully embedded in time for the 2017 examinations.

NZQA has extensively considered recommendation 10 and discussed it with the panel the reasons why we believe the existing established processes are more likely to result in a better outcome for students. The approach taken by the Marking Panel to take account of the error has delivered results which are consistent with previous years. All students who sat the Level 3 Statistics achievement standard 91585 have been made aware of the opportunity to apply for a reconsideration at no cost. Extending the deadline for reconsiderations could cause students to delay their applications, and risk impacting their applications for tertiary study.

**Will the recommendations be implemented across all examination subjects?**

Yes.

**How will NZQA ensure an error like the one in the Level 3 Statistics achievement standard doesn’t happen again?**

We are committed to ensuring the quality of our examination processes and we are implementing the panel’s recommendations immediately as part of the work for the 2017 examinations. Implementing the recommendations will help to further strengthen our processes, and we will continue to look for opportunities to further improve our quality assurance practices.

**Apart from the panel’s recommendations, what other internal processes will NZQA be putting in place to minimise the possibility of errors in examination papers?**

Following each examination season, NZQA carries out a formal quality improvement review across all systems and processes to identify what worked well and what didn’t. In addition to this, NZQA will continue to look for opportunities to further improve our quality assurance practices.

**How does the performance of students in the affected examinations compare with 2015?**

Overall achievement was similar to previous years, including the distribution of candidates across the four grades in the NCEA examinations (Not Achieved, Achieved, Merit and Excellence).