

Aide-Memoire: 2018 New Zealand Scholarship subject list biennial review

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| To: | Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education |
| From: | Dr Karen Poutasi, Chief Executive |
| Date: | 2 May 2018 |
| Reference: | CR17356 |

Purpose

1. This aide-memoire is to notify you that NZQA is shortly to commence consultation on whether there should be any amendments to the New Zealand Scholarship subject list.
2. It is recommended this report is proactively released once the consultation and review are complete.

Background

3. Under section 253(1) of the Education Act 1989, NZQA administers the general assessment rules and procedures for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship.
4. NZQA reviews the Scholarship Subject List every two years in consultation with the Ministry of Education and stakeholders (the education sector and other interested groups). The last review was conducted in 2016 and resulted in no change to the Scholarship Subject List.
5. Revising the list biennially ensures that the subjects are sustainable, relevant and meet the government's goals and the sector's expectations. It also determines whether a current or proposed subject has the capacity to enable students to exhibit the high-level cognitive abilities necessary for the credibility of the Scholarship examinations.

Discussion

6. NZQA is shortly to begin consultation on whether there should be any amendments to the New Zealand Scholarship subject list. We are also specifically seeking feedback on including Religious Studies as a subject and removing Latin and/or Sculpture from the list.
7. Religious Studies was identified from feedback through the 2016 review as a subject that was likely to meet the criteria to be offered as a New Zealand Scholarship subject. The last time NZQA added subjects was in 2011, with the inclusion of Samoan Language, and Dance.
8. There has been continuing low participation in Latin and Sculpture in recent years (23 candidates in Latin and 27 in Sculpture in 2017). NZQA is concerned about the feasibility of

maintaining these two subjects on the list. If this proposal is agreed, it will be the first time that NZQA has removed a subject from the list.

9. NZQA expects to receive strong support for maintaining Latin and Sculpture on the subject list from those that are interested in the two subject areas. NZQA has an engagement and communications plan in place to manage and respond to any concerns and we will share this with your office.

Next steps

10. The consultation period is scheduled to take place in the second school term, from Monday 7 May 2018 to Friday 15 June 2018 (a period of six weeks).
11. NZQA's Board will consider the feedback and make its decisions later this year. The outcome will be communicated to the sector in September 2018. This will ensure that schools and NZQA has adequate preparation time to manage any changes required for the 2019 examinations. You will be briefed before NZQA announces the outcome to the sector.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)

Chief Executive, NZQA

02 / 05 / 18

Noted/Agreed

Chris Hipkins

Minister Education

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