



Summary: Accelerated Change in the Secondary School

This paper carries on from the work that the 2010 PPTA Conference did around making the NCEA workload more manageable. It summarises the efforts made to date to reduce workload and includes appendices that list the proposals made by the NZQA Workload Group (Appendix 1) for reducing workload, and the response from NZQA and the Ministry of Education to the proposals (Appendix 2). Reducing the amount of moderation, reducing the number of credits per course and providing more Teacher Only Days are all seen as critical to a long-term solution. The paper also considers initiatives at the secondary/tertiary interface and questions whether the money being removed from secondary schools to support the youth guarantee policy is really the best thing for students and the best use of the funding. The paper is also critical of the Careers New Zealand proposal to assist careers advisors by providing them with performance benchmarks when they really need time and professional support to do the job.

Recommendations:

1. That the report be received.
2. That PPTA endorse the work of NZQA's workload advisory group and demand urgent action to implement all its recommendations.
3. That PPTA continue to advocate for an 18-20 credit assessment guideline per course.
4. That PPTA call for further Teacher Only Days for NCEA curriculum alignment work, four in 2012 and four in 2013.
5. That PPTA continue to monitor the various Youth Guarantee initiatives, with particular focus on teacher workload, student pathways, and funding to secondary schools.
6. That PPTA call for improved time allowances and training for careers advisers, and for the careers grant (CIG) to be increased.