

President's News

End of term 2 2010

Recently I was fortunate to be invited to the Secondary and Young Peoples' Network meeting at the Industry Training Federation Head office in Wellington. The group is made up of key ITO's (Industry Training Organisations) that are directly involved in New Zealand secondary schools. The other guest was Liz Wilmott Framework Registration NZQA.

The opening statement set the tone for the meeting:

"We don't accept that a University education is a prerequisite for a good job, and we don't think our school system should function as if it is". John Key Prime minister 4 February 2010

In 2009 57,000 Secondary students completed one or more ITO unit standard. This represents 35% of students. Mark Dronjak HIS ITO (Growing talent in NZ Hospitality) Schools Manager reported that in 2009 187,000 credits were recorded from NZ Secondary students. Mark stated that the flow on effect for students moving to Tertiary and Industry has been amazing. Stats show us that of the 55,000 school leavers last year 1,600 (29%) were bound for University. The Industry Training Federation are keen to promote VET (Vocational Education Training) in New Zealand similar to what happens in Australia.

The Challenge

We need to use the potential of NCEA and the Qualifications Framework to actively support achievement in VET. We need to move beyond "University or not" and raise the value of real and practical pathways. The first step is to develop and communicate the pathways to train and work in Industry sectors, as clearly as the Universities. We need to use the qualifications system to support transition from curriculum-based learning to Tertiary education and workplace learning.

A new solution

To develop a set of vocationally-oriented qualifications that schools can see and understand. These would be "sectorial" qualifications containing basic skill sets in related industries. They would interact seamlessly with NCEA to contribute to the main schools qualification while also delivering an entry level sectoral qualification. The five suggested areas at present are:

- Service Industry
- Manufacturing and Technology
- Building and Construction
- Primary Industries
- Social and Community Services.

For those who would like to learn more check out the ITF web site for conference details on:

Vocational Skills: Growing New Zealand, Industry training Federation Annual Conference Te Papa Wellington 28th, 29th July 2010.

News from NZQA

In July the National Qualification Framework will be replaced by a Directory of Standards. ITO unit standards in schools will in the future be developed with grade options. The language and templates for developing and writing units will also change to more reflect today's words and terminology. An example of this would be PC's (performance criteria) = evidence. This is the first time the templates have been adjusted since 2000. While grades are unlikely to be brought in at Industry levels, those standards who maintain a competency level would be deemed to be achieved at excellence level. There will also be new Generic Literacy and Numeracy standards available from September that will be able to be incorporated in any subject and learning area. From 2010 this opens the way for more interactive courses and timetabling in schools.

NZGTТА News

Our new website is proving to be a valuable resource and communication tool for teachers in our learning areas. Remember it is your site and the resources and contents reflect and show what is happening in New Zealand secondary schools. To get a wider coverage we have opened up the resource section to free-view which it is hoped will extend to cover all areas of current practice. View on www.nzgtta.org.nz All membership options are also now available on-line support your Association.

With the shortest day over we can hopefully look forward to more settled weather and time to enjoy winter sports options enjoy the break.

Max Maddison
President