

03 August 2009

S2009/024
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**TO: Principal
 Principal's Nominee
 All Teachers**

Change Proposal for 2009 Compassionate Consideration Process

In response to feedback from schools, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is proposing to change the method of establishing grades when a candidate has been granted compassionate consideration.

A response to this proposal is sought by 31 August 2009.

The previous method used for awarding compassionate consideration required three reference candidates as benchmarks. Problems reported to NZQA include:

- small schools or classes not being able to find sufficient reference candidates
- the need to ensure that reference candidates all attended the exam and attempted the paper to the best of their ability
- a lack of transparency and credibility in how the grades are established and also how the results are reported
- that it relies on the performance or non-performance of other candidates
- that there is no standard specific evidence available for checking.

The proposed changes are:

- i. The process will be renamed the 'Illness & Misadventure' process in keeping with international conventions.
- ii. The outcome will be renamed a *derived grade*.
- iii. NZQA will publish guidelines on who should apply for 'Illness & Misadventure' using the same criteria as currently used for compassionate consideration applications.
- iv. Schools will recommend a *derived grade* to NZQA for the candidate based exclusively on pre-existing standard-specific evidence of achievement such as mock exams, formal tests, etc held in the school's SMS.
- v. NZQA will check the validity of reported grades and quality assurance processes as part of its other school review visits and reports.
- vi. Any *derived grades* reported will be annotated on any results information reported by NZQA for reasons of transparency.

Your feedback is appreciated and we would request that this is received no later than Monday **31 August 2009**. This can be completed on the attached form and sent to either:

CC Consultation
Schools Liaison
NZQA
PO Box 160
Wellington 6011

or:

schoolsliaison@nzqa.govt.nz

Enquiries

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to your School Relationship Manager.

School Relationship Manager Secondary Assessment and Liaison Telephone: 04 463 3000 Fax: 04 463 3113 Email: firstname.lastname@nzqa.govt.nz
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Circulars are available from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:
www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars

Compassionate Consideration Change Proposal Consultation

NZQA Schools Liaison Survey: Compassionate Consideration Change Proposal.						
Name of School						
School Code		Date				
School contact person						
Position						
e-mail address						
This response represents the views of	[Insert number]	teaching staff				
For each of the following statements please mark (X) the columns where 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly Agree						
Please put only one tick in each row and not across lines.		1	2	3	4	5
A	<i>I (we) agree with the proposed name changes to 'Illness & Misadventure' and a 'derived grade'</i>					
B	<i>I (we) agree to the removal of reference candidates and using a recommended derived grade based on available standard-specific evidence held by the school</i>					
C	<i>I (we) agree that for reasons of credibility and transparency derived grades will be annotated on any results information</i>					
E-mail To: schoolsliasion@nzqa.govt.nz by 31 August 2009 Or post to: CC Consultation, Schools Liaison PO Box 160, Wellington 6011						