

Aide-Memoire: NCEA Online participation

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Dr Karen Poutasi, Chief Executive
Date:	10 February 2020
Reference:	CR20241

Purpose

1. This aide memoire is in response to your request (ref.CR19957) for more detailed data on participation in NCEA Online examinations in 2019, and further information on any students who switched from digital to paper either just before or during the examinations. At the time you also asked for a breakdown of incidents, their causes and mitigations. This was provided as part of CR20090.

Background

2. The response outlined in this aide-memoire is based on robust but interim data and information. Finalised data and information will be available in the 2019 NCEA Online User Experience Evaluation, which will be completed by late April 2020. This will include breakdown of participation data by ethnicity and decile.

Discussion

3. NZQA delivered digital NCEA examinations in 2019 for 14 subjects across levels 1,2 & 3. These were delivered across 35 examination sessions (4 times as many as in 2018) and covered 87 Achievement Standards. Digital examinations were held in 198 examination centres hosting students from 202 schools (four times as many as in 2018).
4. In 2019, 123,380 students sat NCEA examinations. Of these, 14,395, or 11.2% sat one or more digital examinations. NCEA results from digital examinations accounted for 30,535, or 3.58%, of all externally-assessed NCEA achievement standard results (853,369) for the year.
5. NZQA has analysed participation by ethnicity for those examinations offered both digitally and on paper. In 2019, for those subjects, the percentage of Māori students' results that were from a digital assessment was 7.5% for Level 1, 8.9% for Level 2, and 10.2% for Level 3. In 2019, for those subjects, the percentage of Pacific students results that were from a digital assessment was 7.7% for Level 1, 6.8% for Level 2, and 9.3% for Level 3.
6. Comparative percentages for all other ethnicities combined for those subjects was 12% for Level 1, 11.6% for Level 2 and 12.7% for Level 3. Further analysis on participation will be provided in the in the 2019 NCEA Online User Experience Evaluation, which will be completed by late April 2020.

7. There were 244 students who switched from digital to paper after having logged into a digital examination.
8. Of the nearly 20,000 students entered for one or more digital examinations, 3,967 students switched to paper without logging into the digital examination.
9. This attrition rate was in line with NZQA expectations, particularly as schools were encouraged to enter students for digital examinations in the knowledge that students could revert to paper at examination time, if they wished. Current NZQA examination logistics mean that students could not switch from paper to digital on the day.
10. NZQA surveys students post their digital examinations. Of the 3,888 student responses received in 2019, 93% strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "I preferred completing the examination digitally rather than on paper" and 97% strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "Overall I found completing the this examination digitally was a positive experience". This positive feedback is in line with student satisfaction levels in previous years.

Next steps

11. We will provide your office with a pre-publication version of the in the 2019 NCEA Online User Experience Evaluation in April 2020.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive, NZQA

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Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister Education

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