

## **RAPID RESPONSE - NCEA Level 1 Subject List - Follow-up matters ahead of confirming an announcement**

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Metis Number: 1245467  
Date: 24 November 2020

### **You have requested:**

1. Further advice from the PAG on the NCEA Level 1 subject list
2. Further information on Home Economics

### **Background**

1. Following extensive engagement on the Provisional Subject List for NCEA Level 1, we provided you with advice on a recommended final list of NCEA Level 1 subjects [METIS 1244787 refers].
2. You provisionally agreed to our recommendations but requested further information on Home Economics and advice from your NCEA Professional Advisory Group (PAG).
3. A letter from Roger Moses, Chair of the PAG, is attached (at Annex 1) which outline the PAG's advice on the NCEA Level 1 subject list.

### **Home Economics – Provisional Subject List and engagement**

4. Based on current student usage data, a significant overlap between Home Economics and Food Technology courses at Level 1 was identified. We also have concerns that some current courses are heavily practical (cookery) with limited curriculum or nutritional content, and without strong pathways into industry-derived hospitality programmes at Levels 2 and 3. In the Provisional Subject List we proposed a consolidated subject called Food Science.
5. This potential subject was envisaged to encapsulate the practical cooking components of both Home Economics and Food Technology and address our concerns about low-quality course design and pathways into both nutrition and hospitality programmes.
6. Feedback from the sector was strongly opposed to this consolidation to create Food Science, with particular concern about the challenges of combining subjects from different Learning Areas. In particular, the Home Economics teaching community fed back that they believed it would be to the detriment of the subject and students to separate it out from the Health and Physical Education Learning Area.

### **Home Economics – Final recommendation**

7. Following feedback and further consideration, we no longer support a cross-Learning Area consolidation to create Food Science, but still hold concerns

about delivery of low quality, and low curriculum-content, courses in Home Economics. To respond to this, we recommend that Home Economics sits within Health Education.

8. This subject will include a strong food and nutrition focus, as Home Economics does now, but as a context for engaging with broader hauora and health concepts. This will support health promotion relevant to public health priorities such as population obesity trends, and likely be accessed by a wider range of students than Home Economics is currently.

### **Cooking and practical skills**

9. Cooking and other practical skills which currently are part of Home Economics courses will still have a valuable place in teaching and learning programmes (although not necessarily assessed as part of NCEA programmes). These are widely included in programmes up to Year 10 and will also be enabled through the new combined Health Education and Home Economics subject, as well as opportunities to learn how to prepare food through NCEA Level 1 Technology (the new Materials and Processing Technology subject) and industry-derived unit standards (currently through Hospitality unit standards, but these will be set by WDCs in the future).
10. Health Education will enable these cooking and practical skills to be learned and demonstrated – we will work with the Subject Expert Group to identify the most important and appropriate learning to assess. However, it will ensure that there is a strong curriculum, well-being, and nutrition focus to this learning, which is not consistently true of the status quo.
11. For students looking to be credentialled in technical cooking skills, industry-derived standards set by Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) may be the most appropriate pathway, and we will work with WDCs to ensure these options and pathways are appropriately coherent and joined-up.

### **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Letter from Roger Moses, Chair of your NCEA Professional Advisory Group