

21 October 2016

Ms Rhona Lever  
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Dear Ms Lever

### Feedback regarding the 2016 MCAT assessments

Thank you for taking the time to provide your views on the 2016 MCAT used to assess achievement standard 90127.

As you are aware AS90127 is designed to assess students' learning and achievement derived from outcomes in the Mathematics and Statistics/Pangarau learning area of the National Curriculum. The curriculum focuses on the use of mathematical and statistical thinking and on the use of modelling and problem solving.

The changes made in the assessment of the achievement standard in the past few years are in line with the intent of the standard and of the curriculum. The 2016 assessment specifications are consistent with the outcomes of the curriculum.

In assessments for AS90127 students need to select the algebraic procedures (from explanatory note 4 in the standard) and apply these in problem solving. Selection is an essential aspect of problem solving - the student cannot be told which procedure to use. The standard specifies that situations will be set in real-life or mathematical contexts.

The assessment is moving to be more closely aligned with the standard. This is consistent with the advice of the Ministry of Education.

We have noted your detailed comments on the assessment itself. While it isn't appropriate to comment on your detailed points in relation to the assessment questions until after the marking and upcoming examination period is concluded, these will be considered as part of the development of the assessment report for the 2016 MCAT which will be published early next year. It will also inform the development of the 2017 MCAT.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Poutasi'.

Karen Poutasi (Dr)  
Chief Executive