



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

13 APR 2016

Libby Paterson
Subject Advisor
Physical Education New Zealand
59 Cologne Street
Martinborough 5711
WAIRARAPA

Tēnā koe Ms Paterson

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2016 and accompanying documents highlighting the academic nature of the Physical Education learning area.

I want to assure you that I share your sentiments regarding Mr Hipkins' statements. You may be aware of the later media comment on the matter by me, and the Ministry of Education's Lisa Rodgers, Deputy Secretary, Early Learning and Student Achievement.

The *New Zealand Curriculum* and *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* set the framework for young people to develop the competencies they need for study, work, and lifelong learning, so they may go on to realise their full potential. A real strength of our assessment programme is that learners may embed these competencies while engaged in subjects that align with their passions. We know that better outcomes are achieved where the learning is real and meaningful to them and their future aspirations.

As you know, the Physical Education learning area is far wider than the acquisition of physical skills. Many of the NCEA achievement standards for levels 1–3 require learners to investigate, analyse and critically evaluate ideas and issues that have an impact on the well-being of themselves, others and society. Learners must communicate complex ideas in a variety of formats. Doing this successfully requires the same levels of literacy as achievement standards in other learning areas.

I appreciate your passionate support of the Physical Education learning area and wish you well in your work.

Heoi anō

Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education