**Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) trial of Level 1 Science**

Between late September 2019 and April 2020 we will be trialling the development process for achievement standards and curriculum support resources with one NCEA subject – Level 1 Science. This will happen in two phases.

This Science trial is a shorter version of the full review process, designed to test and refine the development of a new matrix, standards, training products and templates.

There was strong interest across the sector from teachers keen to be involved in the trial of Level 1 Science. A Subject Expert Group (SEG) consisting of 12 members has been set up for this trial, with representatives from secondary, tertiary and Industry Training Establishments (ITE), and includes teachers who bring a strong Pacific and Māori learner focus. There will also be NZQA input into the SEG.

The Science SEG met for two days recently to scope out the work ahead.

Between September and December the Science SEG will develop a Level 1 Science learning matrix, which identifies the significant learning at curriculum Level 6. This learning matrix is a new step in the review and will help clarify the most important learning at each level across senior secondary. SEGs will use that learning matrix to develop an assessment matrix of four achievement standards, collecting a range of possible assessment activities and contexts to illustrate how the standards might be assessed.

A key part of the SEG’s work will be the development of a fresh Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Guide (TLAG) which will capture their ideas about teaching and assessment programmes and the rationale for decisions made.

The sector will be invited to provide feedback on the draft phase 1 products from late November 2019 through late January 2020. There will also be targeted user testing of the materials towards the end of Term 4, 2019. This will be the first opportunity for the sector to comment on the direction the work is taking.

Phase 2 (between February and May 2020) will involve refining the phase 1 products and developing several assessment resources for each standard. These will be tested again with the sector (around May) before NZQA verifies the entire assessment package ready for trialling in schools during 2021.