



February 3, 2010

The Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Education
Freepost Parliament
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Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

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Dear Minister,

Re: National Assessment

I can feel your frustration over the "National Assessment" issue; although you are right, we can see the debate is a tough one.

I wanted to write to you because I believe we can turn this around quickly and emphatically by proving absolutely that every student in every school is capable of meeting the national standards prescribed.

My proposition is simple - we incorporate chess programs into the curriculum of some low decile South Auckland schools in 2010. Why chess? Well, the evidence from academic institutions around the world, combined with our many years of experience and success in Australia, makes me certain that we can achieve the stated aim of ensuring that every student in our programs will achieve or exceed the standards.

I suggest a pilot program in 2010 of 10 such schools (of your choosing) with a view to expanding this in the future once the 2010 results are in.

To find out more about our organisation please go to our website www.chesskids.co.nz and also that of our sister company in Australia at www.chesskids.com.au. These websites will tell you all you need to know about the educational benefits of chess, which include improvements to logic, comprehension, mathematical reasoning and self confidence. To get an idea of how that translates to a South Auckland environment you should view the Tagata Pasifika program from last November which can be found at <http://tvnz.co.nz/tagata-pasifika/s2009-e36-chess-video-3194309>. The observations of school Principal Dr Brian Hinchco are particularly illuminating.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we can get together and discuss details of how a program could be implemented. You can contact me any time toll-free on 0800 4 CHESS (0800 424 377) or mobile number 021 565 630.

It is clearly time for the issue to be taken under control not only to protect you own political position, which is unfairly under siege at the moment, but most importantly for the benefit of our future generations.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Depasquale
General Manager
Chess Kids New Zealand Ltd