



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RUTAKI SCHOOL

To the members, caregivers and community of Rutaki School

On 28th to 30th May 2014 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) Division undertook an education review of the school's staff, systems, teaching programmes and resources. The following is an executive summary of our findings.

Review Purpose and Coverage

The purpose of this review was to view the school holistically in all areas of learning offered at Rutaki School. P and D reviews do not cover every aspect of performance and each P and D report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to student achievement and useful to the school.

Summary of Findings

Rutaki School with its extensive grounds and beautiful environment is working to provide quality learning for its students. Due to the small size of the school students are taught in composite classes of reasonable size. A feature of the school curriculum is the continued emphasis on the delivery of lessons in the Cook Islands Maori language. Students enjoy the family atmosphere of being in a small school. They are generally confident and focused learners. The morning 'brain food' and exercises contribute to the general well-being of students.

The principal and staff have a good working relationship. Teachers are encouraged to discuss classroom practices and experiences during breaks. A focus is needed on the specific learning needs of the students and developing their ability to take responsibility for their own learning. One teacher, who could provide professional development for others, is identified as having good assessment practices which lead to IEPs for special needs and 'at risk' students in her class. Along with participation in internal professional development, staff need to review the curriculum documents and set up the library and store room for resources.

It is recommended that the Principal give greater consideration to delegating responsibilities to staff members in areas such as curriculum documentation, teacher and student support and assessment. Self-review needs to be undertaken by the whole school on a regular basis. Although policy review could start from the staff the school committee should also participate.

The school committee must elect a discipline committee and build capacity to respond to school issues. Preparation for the school's 50th anniversary is a priority for the community at the moment

Future Action

The next full review of Rutaki School will be in 2015. Review officers are happy to visit for special focus areas.

Anna Katoa
Review Officer

Cara Haque
Acting Director Planning and Development