

**PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL SUMMARY****AVARUA SCHOOL 2012****To the parents, caregivers and community of Avarua School**

On the 20 – 27 August 2012 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) department undertook a full 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 Avarua School P and D reviews do not cover every aspect of school 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 this school.

Summary of Findings

Apii Avarua, situated in the village of Tupapa in the Teau-o-Tonga district in the town area of Avarua, Rarotonga, is the largest primary school in the country and with a current roll of 549 students is continuing to demonstrate the support of parents, both locally and outside of the township. A new principal took over the school at the start of 2012 and, building on the sound work of the previous principal, she has already made a number of changes.

The newly elected school committee is functioning well and supportive of the school and principal. It has so far been involved not only in fundraising but also in other practical activity round the school. The committee has complied with most of the requirements of its role although there continue to be auditing issues.

Curriculum planning by the senior staff of Apii Avarua is detailed and thorough, leading to organized units of study and consistent assessment processes. Teachers are working well together and their classrooms are clean, bright and cheerful, providing encouraging and supportive learning environments. Students' progress is being monitored and could now be improved by the provision of a range of more student centred learning activities in the classroom.

The ECE teachers are moving towards the provision of full assessment documentation for their students.

The school needs to ensure that it makes the most effective use of teaching and ancillary staff and one teacher is required to produce full documentation for the review office at a later date.

Future Action

The next full education review will be term 2, 2013.

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