



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

## PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### AVARUASCHOOL

#### To the members, caregivers and community of Avarua School

On 25<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 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 Avarua 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

Avarua School is the largest primary school in the country and as such needs robust systems and processes which will allow for smooth management throughout the year. Currently too many administrative requirements are being left until the end of the year before being attended to. Consequently action can seem unconsidered and hasty. The many recent changes involving staff and programmes have also left teachers struggling to adjust.

A whole school review programme needs now to be established which will ensure that changes begin after consultation at the policy stage and are then carried through in a process of coordination and cooperation involving the principal and staff working together. Schemes, programmes, plans and lesson plans need to be linked to and supportive of policies. IT, Enterprise and Careers all need to be included in this process.

At the same time the expertise of several experienced and very capable teachers needs to be utilised so that all teachers can improve their planning, subject knowledge and teaching approaches. The school has syndicates in place which now need to be effectively coordinated. A culture of support and acknowledgement of good teaching practices should be celebrated.

The school is keen to improve its use of literacy and numeracy data. This needs to start with the teachers and their effective and regular monitoring and recording of their students' work and progress. All students should have portfolios which demonstrate their recent learning and progress; teachers should have evidence of types and times of assessment and subsequent evaluation. The data thus collected can then feed through to provide reliable school wide evidence of learning. It also needs to be a school goal that teaching and assessment in other essential learning areas gain increasing importance.

Other areas of support for staff could come through increasing professional development, both internally and through taking advantage of MoE initiatives.

#### Future Action

The next full review of Avarua School will be in 2014. Review officers are happy to visit for special focus areas.

Anna Katoa, Review Officer

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