



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARAURA COLLEGE

To the members, caregivers and community of Araura College

On the 25th to 28th of June 2013 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) Division undertook an education review of the college'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 Araura College. 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

The principal and staff at Araura College using a recently created strategic plan and some annual goals for 2013 are still in the process of developing a long term vision for the college. After achieving some impressive level two NCEA results in 2012, the current focus is on continuing to improve NCEA statistics and general literacy and numeracy. Planned evaluation, detailed responsibilities and success indicators now need to be included with the goals so that a clear annual plan is created. On a daily basis the school is running well with an organised and well established staff making a major contribution. The various committees meet regularly and decisions made are formally recorded. Students are supported by the deans, the guidance counsellor and the student leaders. Facilities are being steadily improved with the support of the school committee and PTA and technology is increasingly evident in classrooms, used by both students and teachers. At a senior level there is a real focus by teachers on students' achieving success. Courses are being adopted and adapted, as well as teaching approaches varied, as is considered necessary. There is currently some feeling that the students are not yet playing their part fully this year. In the junior classes the atmosphere is lively and learning is apparent. It is good to see learning intentions being discussed in many rooms and group activities being used widely. What is missing is the use of differentiation so that all students in the class can enjoy a measure of success. In fact the school has identified a considerable number of students as 'at risk' and there needs now to be planning aimed at assessing their needs and tracking their progress. This appears to be a desirable focus for future professional development.

Future Action

The next full review of Araura College will be in Term three 2014. Review officers are happy to visit for special focus areas.

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