



PLANNING, POLICY & REVIEW SCHOOL SUMMARY ARAURA COLLEGE, AITUTAKI – MAY 2012

To the parents, caregivers and community of Araura College

During the period April 30 – May 4, 2012, the Ministry of Education's Planning, Policy and Review (PPR) Division 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 address progress made towards the recommendations of the previous review in October 2010 and to investigate the school's processes and practices in relation to the Ministry of Education's National Focus Areas for 2012. PPR reviews do not cover every aspect of school performance and each PPR 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

The college of 198 students provides the only secondary education on the island of Aitutaki. With the strong encouragement of the Minister of Education and under the leadership of a new principal once again, the school has set itself several challenges in 2012. The key goal is for the school to provide students with an education which will allow them direct access to work or tertiary study. The broadening and extension of the curriculum is the school's major response to the new focus and the ensuing challenges have been taken up willingly. Thus, while the School Committee works hard to improve the physical environment of the school, the focus of the teachers is currently on providing a broad and attractive curriculum for students along with the strong teaching which will raise NCEA results.

This year, with support from the Ministry, CIIC and the School Committee, the school has already tiled and improved the science laboratory and several classrooms, installed UV water units and is working on various other building projects. On the academic front the school has taken two major steps with the introduction of a Year 13 programme and the re-introduction of practical subjects such as sewing, agriculture, graphics and woodwork into the junior classes.

Teachers are working to improve their already sound standard of teaching, and planning and self evaluation are becoming more detailed. The pastoral aspects of the school are thriving with the Deans carefully monitoring their students and the prefects and councilors playing their own roles in maintaining the positive but relaxed atmosphere in the school.

The new subjects must now be included in the systems of self review and monitoring and time management being established throughout the college. The Principal, with staff and the School Committee, needs to develop a strategic and annual plan and statistical data must be established and stored in order to monitor progress in the school. This will be particularly important in the areas of literacy and numeracy and for planning senior courses where there currently seems to be a mismatch between classes available and student needs and abilities.

Future Action

PPR has outlined a number of compliance directives that must be addressed by the end of Term 4. The College will undergo a full education review in 2013 to ensure the college is fully compliant.

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Anna Katoa
Review Officer

Handwritten signature of Cara Haque in blue ink.

Cara Haque
Review Officer

Handwritten signature of Gail Townsend in blue ink.

Gail Townsend
CEO: Planning, Policy & Review

