



PLANNING, POLICY & REVIEW EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AVARUA SCHOOL – MARCH 2011

To the parents, caregivers and community of Avarua School

On the 21st Feb – 3rd March 2011 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 made in the previous review in October 2009. 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

Avarua School, the largest primary school in the country, is located in the village of Tupapa in the Teau-o-Tonga district, in the town area. It continues to receive strong support from the community and from enrolment of children from outside the Avarua zone. Students are aware of the school being the largest and they consider themselves very fortunate to attend there.

The school is well resourced and has a supportive school committee working closely to assist with the school and its environment.

There were a number of areas of good practice at Avarua School that are highly commendable. The teachers are generally to be commended on their management of their students and classrooms. Wall displays adorn the classrooms, making it a vibrant environment to work in. Some teachers would find more reflective evaluation a useful tool for future planning. The school is to be commended on its disaster management and tsunami evacuation policies.

The school is encouraged to continue to work towards strengthening its Maori language programmes and to set and work purposefully towards annual goals in this area.

There are a number of the administrative requirements the school needs to complete to be fully compliant with the Ministry of Education guidelines. These requirements are well within the capacity of the current school leadership and management team. The ECE syndicate requires a Supplementary Review visit due to a change in planning approaches which are not consistent with the intention of the Early Childhood Curriculum.

Future Action

A supplementary review on the ECE Syndicate with particular reference to planning approaches will be carried out in Term 2, 2011. The date for a full Education review will be scheduled in Term 3 of 2012 to ensure all compliance directives have been addressed.

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Anna Katoa
Review Officer

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Mata Hetland
Review Officer

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Gail Townsend
CEO: Planning, Policy & Review