



PLANNING, POLICY & REVIEW SCHOOL SUMMARY IMANUELA AKATEMIA, RAROTONGA – MAY 2012

To the parents, caregivers and community of Imanuela Akatemia

During May 28 – May 30, 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 November 2010 and the supplementary review of March 2011, and to investigate the school's processes and practices in 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 school of 73 students provides a private Christian education for children from ECE level to Year 13. The majority of the curriculum at all levels is taught using the Accelerated Christian Education programme. This is an American programme very slightly adapted for Pacific students. Students complete individual units of work across a range of subjects at their own pace and for the most part working alone on booklets or the computer. In the afternoons other essential learning areas from the Cook Islands curriculum are taught in classes containing several year levels.

Teachers appear knowledgeable about and committed to the ACE programme and the children are well supported in this area. However, the Principal has demonstrated little interest in and knowledge of the classes taught in the afternoons. Teachers have been left to develop their own schemes, plans, units and assessment processes and the results are extremely variable and on the whole unsatisfactory. This is a long term concern.

A second and equal concern is that the instruction being provided for the ECE children, as acknowledged by the Principal, is in a form which directly counters the principles of learning through play propounded by the Cook Islands ECE curriculum policies. It is also of concern that the ECE children have little space and a narrow range of daily activities available.

Future Action

PPR has outlined a number of compliance directives that must be addressed by the end of Term 4. The school will undergo a full education review in 2014 to ensure the college is fully compliant.

Anna Katoa
Review Officer

Cara Haque
Review Officer

Gail Townsend
CEO: Planning, Policy & Review