



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

## PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### NIUA SCHOOL

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

From the 27th of February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2013 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) department undertook an education review of Niua 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 centre holistically in all areas of learning offered at Niua 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 member achievement and useful to the centre.

#### Summary of Findings

Niua School is situated near the lagoon in Yato, Pukapuka. The buildings are clean and tidy and generally well maintained. There is a new ECE playground and work is planned to further enhance the grounds. Niua School has a full committee with members from each of three villages and the chairman and principal work closely together.

The school currently has 174 students and a staff of ten teachers and a teacher aide. Students are taught in a combination of year level and ability groups with the senior students being taught by subject specialists while the primary students have homerooms. The principal is highly motivated and keen to monitor and review all aspects of the school in order to achieve further improvement. Senior teachers are taking leading roles and demonstrating commitment. The staff work collegially, despite the lack of a staff room and members of the community are invited in to run life skills classes on a regular basis.

Some concern has been expressed over student lack of discipline and failure to engage with school work. It is suggested that the whole school now work to provide differentiated learning opportunities in classrooms so that both the least able and the most advanced can be engaged in and challenged by the tasks they are set. The ECE teacher will also need support in establishing a fully play based environment for her class.

The principal, staff and committee at Niua School are to be commended for their efforts to provide a high quality education for their students, intended to prepare them both for life in their community and further education and experiences elsewhere.

#### Future Action

The next full review of Niua School will be in 2014 as the school will then have a new principal.

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