



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

## PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TEREORA COLLEGE 2013

### **To the members, caregivers and community of Tereora College**

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) division undertook an education review of the school 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 Tereora 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 member achievement and useful to the college.

#### **Summary of Findings**

As the largest school in the Cook Islands and the national college, Tereora College sees itself as having strong responsibilities towards its community and country while at the same time building 'global citizens' who can compete on the world stage. Since the arrival of the new principal there has been detailed and expert analysis of the NCEA results over the last few years with the intention of identifying strengths and weaknesses and planning for success. The school now offers a wide range of subjects for students to study at all levels of NCEA. While there is steady progress being made across the board there continues to be a focus on building literacy and challenging students to aim higher and strive for merit and excellence endorsements.

The school has undertaken several initiatives; the Learning Charter, the development of the Anau system, the introduction of faculties and faculty leaders, the development of the new school website and the introduction of KAMAR. All of the above are designed to provide support for students, allow the generation of leadership and ownership in all sectors of the school and to allow for greater communication both inside and outside the school.

All professional development has been directed towards the school goal, 'improvement in student learning.' The heads of faculty are charged with ensuring best practice is being carried out and the Anau teachers are now responsible for monitoring and supporting students' academic progress as well as their pastoral care. Heads of Anau have taken up the challenge of leading their students and teachers. More participation by parents is welcome and they are encouraged to make first contact with their children's Anau class teachers or the head of Anau when wishing to discuss their child.

The school is adapting its programmes regularly to better accommodate the needs of its students. New courses are being introduced and students are encouraged to multilevel where appropriate. Assessment results are increasingly being used to identify areas of success and failure and common assessment tasks with moderated marking are now required in core junior school subjects. The careers, guidance, and inclusive education departments, along with Rakei Toa are working to ensure that all students are supported as fully as possible in the school. Roles appear to be shared to some extent in these areas and more specific responsibilities need to be identified so that pathways for individual students are clear and their progress fully tracked.

Teachers are taking ownership of what happens in their classes and their students. Students appear happy and proud of their school and seniors are demonstrating maturity both as anau leaders and individually. Buildings are being maintained as well as possible, computer pods are installed in classrooms and the library. However, frustration is expressed by many in the school over the lack of availability of a reliable computer system. The principal and management team are constantly working to resolve this longstanding problem.

It is unfortunate that while the school committee chairperson believes that there is a strong community support for Tereora College, this support is not currently demonstrated by parents' attendance at PTA meetings.

Overall, it is the opinion of the review team that Tereora College is a school which is focused on its goals and the putting into practice of strategies with which to achieve them. There is strong leadership accompanied by a willingness to delegate responsibility and to deal with issues as they occur. Students, staff and management are heading in the same direction with enthusiasm.

#### Future Action

Tereora College is scheduled for a full Education Review in 2015



Anna Katoa  
Review Officer



Cara Haque  
Review Officer



Gail Townsend  
Director Planning and Development

