



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VAITAU SCHOOL 2013

To the members, caregivers and community of Vaitau School

On the 19th -21st of June 2013 the Ministry of Education's Planning and Development (P and D) Division undertook an 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 view the centre holistically in all areas of learning offered at Vaitau 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 student achievement and useful to the school.

Summary of Findings

Vaitau Primary School continues to make progress towards its goal of providing the best possible learning opportunities for each of its students. The principal tackles learning and the curriculum with imagination and energy. The teachers are fully supportive of their principal, as is the school committee.

The physical environment is being steadily improved through out of hours efforts by the principal and voluntary work from groups such as Rotary. Rooms have been painted, curtains hung and lawns regularly mown. This last has occurred, despite the lack of a grounds man since earlier in the year.

The principal and staff are taking precise, well planned steps to improve student literacy and numeracy and the review team was impressed by the degree of differentiation and variety of activities going on in the classrooms. Achievement is being monitored and it is expected that improvements will be seen in the end of year results.

There remain areas to be improved on. While there seem to be exciting and challenging activities going on during the teaching of the other learning areas, students' progress here is not always being tracked and monitored adequately. Assessment data and/or evidence of evaluation were often missing.

The school needs to review more of its policies and develop a comprehensive Arts scheme. The supportive school committee is requested to find office holders who are not serving staff members as the current situation could lead to a conflict of interests.

Future Action

The next full review of Vaitau School will be in 2015. Review officers are happy to visit for special focus areas.

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