

Pacific Science for Health Literacy Partnership Programme

LENScience

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A New Beginning

Malo e lelei, Kia Orana, Hello!

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the Pacific Science for Health Literacy Partnership Programme. The project has been launched. Together this three nation partnership is working to support Pacific youth to reduce noncommunicable disease risk (NCD) in current and future generations, in the Cook Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, and New Zealand.

Jacque Bay and Bill MacIntyre of the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, have spent time in both partner countries recently, working with Lead Teachers and the Development Teams. Working groups have been established and the planning is well underway for development of the Learning Modules which will be taught in schools during 2014. Professional Learning Development workshops for teachers will be delivered in both Tonga and the Cook Islands throughout the year.

Cook Islands News



Te rau o te KUKI AIRANI
Cook Islands NEWS
 AS SOLID AS THE ISLANDS WE STAND FOR
 Monday, September 30, 2013
 \$2

Students take driver's seat for health

COOK ISLANDS students will be the drivers behind a programme that aims to reduce non-communicable disease (NCD) in the Cook Islands.

A partnership between the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Tonga is aiming to support Pacific youth to take action on health risk factors, with the aim of reducing the burden of NCDs in the 2014 school year.

With funding from New Zealand, Manawatu Institute of Education, Victoria College and Te Mataira (Ministry of Health) have been working with Auckland University's Liggins Institute in the past 12 months to plan the project and secure funding through until 2014.

The project follows on from a programme that has been successful in New Zealand.

Auckland students have been taking issues such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and obesity as well as mental health and physical education.

The programme is based on issues of health issues in the community and stories of those who are working globally to solve these issues. Twelve months after the programme began in Auckland, there were measurable changes in the student's behaviour which had, in turn, impacted the behaviour of their families.

With the programme in Auckland showing good success and being particularly well received by Maori and Pacific youth, the Cook Islands team, led by Ina Herrmann, is looking to transfer the model to the local context.

Ina Herrmann, Director of Learning & Teaching, Ministry of Education, said that 11 students will be involved in the programme with year 9 and 11 students joining in 2015. The year 9 programme will offer participating schools the option of using it across English, Science, Social Studies, Maths, and Health and PE. Participating schools include Tereora, Nukutere and Titikaveka Colleges.

Ina Herrmann, Director of Learning & Teaching, Ministry of Education, said that the programme has attracted attention because it puts young people in the driver's seat of positive health changes in the community, passing health messages on to their family and friends.

New Zealand High Commissioner Joanna Kempfers said that the programme has attracted attention because it puts young people in the driver's seat of positive health changes in the community, passing health messages on to their family and friends.

"The data (in New Zealand) is really telling," said Kempfers.

— Writer Douglas

Kia Orana from the Cook Islands!

The New Zealand High Commissioner, Joanna Kempfers endorses the PSfHL Project saying it ***"puts young people in the driver's seat of positive health changes in the community, passing health messages on to their family and friends."*** Ms Kempfers attended a formal reception at the Ministry of Education last week to launch the project.

The new Cook Islands programme will be used for students in Year 9 and Year 11 across Rarotonga in 2014, with Year 10 students joining in 2015. The Year 9 programme will offer participating schools the option of using it across English, Science, Social Studies, Maths, and Health and PE. Participating schools include Tereora, Nukutere and Titikaveka Colleges.

"It is about young people exploring the evidence and working out possible actions to reduce NCDs rather than being told what to do." Mrs Ina Herrmann, Director of Learning & Teaching, Ministry

of Education

The teachers and education leaders will also be learning. Along with the team from the Liggins Institute and the Tongan Ministry of Education, the Cook Island educators will be evaluating the programme as it develops and making recommendations for future programme expansion into the pa enua and potentially the Pacific region.

Tongan News



'Elisiva Na'ati

Malo e ngaue from Tonga

Science teachers in Tonga, with the support of the Director of Education, 'Emeli Pouvalu, together with Bill MacIntyre from the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, make up the Lead Teachers Writing Group. Together they participated in a workshop to identify aspects for inclusion in the learning module which will be taught in 2014. The Lead Teachers Writing Group was hosted by the Ministry of Health at Vaiola Hospital. This module - ***Me, Myself and My Environment: Nutrition*** will be taught in Form 2 (Class 8) at Tonga High School, Tonga Side School and Tonga College. Included in the learning activities are the health stories from work by Dr Paula Vivili, 2004 WHO STEPS survey and Ms 'Elisiva Na'ati, Head of the Diabetes Health Clinic.

A second learning module will be developed during 2014 on the subject of *Type 2 Diabetes: An Issue for My Community*, incorporating the work of Dr 'Ana Koloto and Ms Heti Veikume, University of the South Pacific.

What is happening

Communication is a vital part of working together as partners. To facilitate good communication we have developed a website and a web-based community. Our website has information on the [Partnership Programmes](#) and there is a page for both the Cook Islands (coming soon) and [Tonga](#) to access information in their respective languages.

In addition you can join the [LENScience Community](#) and be part of an interactive, vibrant community of students, teachers, scientists and supporters who share their knowledge, ideas and experiences with each other.



Partners and Funding Agencies



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