



2021 National Focus Area

The importance of educational research at a local level in the Cook Islands is maintained by the Ministry of Education (MoE) through the encouragement of identifying a National Focus Area (NFA).

The purpose of an NFA is to ensure that the Ministry of Education is actively participating in educational research and that the findings of NFA contribute to Ministry of Education strategic planning. NFA contributes to the development of statements and indicators set in both the Education Master Plan 2008 – 2023 and the MoE Statement of Intent (SOI).

The process of deciding an NFA come from a variety of sources but is not exclusive to; patterns of commonality identified across schools as a result of school review, an educationally relevant area of interest from an MoE division, school or principal, or to follow on from an outcome of a Ministry of Education programme evaluation.

This year, we continue with the collation of data from schools on the implications of transition/progression on students from primary level education and secondary.

Thus far we have gathered ample information on the implementation of the Student Progression policy in schools. The policy guides progression systems to date and we have an overview of current in-school support systems at the identified transition points. The continuation of this NFA in 2021 will be focused on; the relevancy and effectiveness of assessment practices before and after transition and to identify the impact on level appropriate achievement for students.

The final report for this NFA will be published in 2022.

In addition to this, the 2021 NFA's is also interested in effective pedagogical practice as identified by Cook Islands schools and the impact this has on improved student achievement results.

Purpose and Scope of this inquiry:

The main question for this internal inquiry will focus on the approaches or programmes that schools have internally identified and have prioritized through implementation as an effective pedagogical practice. The Ministry of education will identify and describe the pedagogical practice, register the types of Professional Development opportunities associated and align the implementation of the practice with improved student achievement.

This is an opportunity to showcase the effective pedagogy approaches being implemented across our schools, so the scope will include all schools not just those who the Planning & Development team engage with via educational school reviews.

The measurable outcomes of this inquiry will be:

- 1) The number of identified effective pedagogical practice.
- 2) Aligned Professional Development opportunities for Leaders and teaching staff.
- 3) Evidence of improved student achievement as a result of the pedagogical approach.

