

## Review of Tonga Teachers' College Curriculum - 1995/96

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As a result of the 1995 consultation held in Suva, Fiji, the Tonga Teachers' College has implemented, or is working towards implementing several proposals made at the consultation and subsequently endorsed by the Ministry of Education:

- ◆ Three students graduated in 1995 with an extra major in Physical Education. The trial syllabus is now complete. Physical Education is compulsory in Year I and is offered as an advanced course.
- ◆ One of the lecturers in the Language Faculty was ear-marked to concentrate on Teaching English as a Second Language. She is currently working towards a Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language. She also participates in the continuing revision and adaptation of the English Language programme.
- ◆ A new committee is now working towards a programme for Early Childhood Education. This programme will be under the umbrella of the College. The first two years starting in 1996 will be school-based in-service training for existing pre-school centres in Tonga. During this interim period, the team will design a programme to be nationally implemented in all pre-school centres.
- ◆ While the Curriculum Development Unit was revising Music and Art and Craft Syllabi, a specialist teacher was appointed to the College at the beginning of 1996 to begin co-ordinating the existing programme.
- ◆ A donation of NZ\$25,000 for Science equipment and NZ\$20,000 for text/library books was made by the New Zealand Government in response to a request based on the overall review and evaluation of the Science curriculum.
- ◆ A 16-week programme in Computer Studies was offered to final-year students in 1995. This was a result of a revision of the Mathematics curriculum as well as a general update of teaching and technology.
- ◆ A basic Home Economics Unit was furnished and equipped to cater for the training of Home Economics teachers. A revision of this programme pushed the Ministry to support the College's request for assistance. Again the New Zealand Government donated NZ\$10,000 for equipment.
- ◆ In 1996, a research team from Auckland University will work with College staff on research projects required by the College. This is also one of the staff development programmes on continuing research as part of staff training.

Further work on the revision of the programme is expected later this year.

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