

## Papua New Guinea Teacher Education Curriculum Review

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In 1995, the Association for Teacher Education made the following proposals for a curriculum review of PNG Teachers' Colleges.

1. All colleges to have internally-reviewed programmes submitted by the end of 1995.
2. Experienced strand (Professional Development, Language Development, Mathematics-Science Education, Social and Spiritual Development, Community Development) personnel to be selected to review subjects in strand area.
3. Comments from reviewers to be submitted to a Review Panel made up of Superintendent Curriculum/Inspections, Principal, College lecturers, Office of Higher Education, University of Papua New Guinea, Curriculum Officer and the Chairman, Association for Teacher Education.
4. The Review Panel to submit findings on programme quality to Secretary for Education through the Assistant Secretary, Staff Development & Training Division.

None of the above has been done. Not all colleges have submitted their reports. PNG has had serious budget problems since August 1994 and funding for travel and associated costs is not available. It is also questionable whether the exercise would be of real benefit. There are some obvious inconsistencies and course design concerns that need to be addressed before a review is carried out.

Given the limited resources, the Staff Development & Training Division has changed tack. Three colleges have been placed in the situation where they have to re-assess their programmes: Kabaloo and St Paul's because the two institutions are

amalgamating and Balob which has agreed to change from term to semester courses in line with other colleges.

Divisional officers are working closely with staff at both colleges. Though it is early days yet, initial feedback is very positive. The opportunity to inservice all staff at once, to discuss the broader issues before mapping out a programme and getting down to unit writing, is being appreciated.

It is hoped that this approach will serve as a model to other colleges and in the long term be of greater benefit than an ill-timed review.

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