

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Ministry of Education

and

the Ministry of Health

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1. Parties

The two parties to this Memorandum of Understanding are the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

2. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding is a mutual agreement between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to work in a cooperative partnership to improve the well-being, health and academic achievement of school students.

3. Rationale

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health agree that :

- 3.1 improving knowledge and understanding of health will improve the health and life skills of students
- 3.2 improving the health of students will improve their academic achievement
- 3.3 ensuring a healthy school environment is beneficial to the health and well-being of students, teachers and the wider community
- 3.4 healthier and better-educated students will produce a healthier, more productive Cook Islands population

4. Goals

The goals of this Memorandum are to :

- 4.1 improve student and teacher knowledge and understanding of health
- 4.2 improve the health of students
- 4.3 improve academic achievement of students
- 4.4 ensure schools are safe and healthy environments for students and teachers
- 4.5 produce a healthier Cook Islands population

5. Cooperative Strategies

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health agree to achieve the Memorandum goals by cooperating to :

- 5.1 develop, support and implement a relevant Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum
- 5.2 develop, support and implement relevant school learning programmes consistent with the Health Promoting Schools philosophy
- 5.3 develop, support and implement relevant school health policies consistent with the Health Promoting Schools philosophy
- 5.4 monitor health standards in the school environment and take appropriate action
- 5.5 monitor the health of individual students and take appropriate action
- 5.6 promote awareness and understanding of health issues of particular relevance to the Cook Islands

6. Health Curriculum and Learning Programmes

6.1 The Ministry of Education agrees to :

- 6.1.1 develop and review the Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum in consultation with the Ministry of Health
- 6.1.2 identify a Ministry employee who will be the point of contact for the Ministry of Health
- 6.1.3 communicate draft and final curriculum statements to the Ministry of Health
- 6.1.4 plan and deliver Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum workshops for teachers in consultation with the Ministry of Health
- 6.1.5 develop and procure relevant resources to support the Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum funded from its own budget and from donor funds sourced in cooperation with the Ministry of Health
- 6.1.6 plan and deliver Health learning programmes in schools and the Teachers Training College
- 6.1.7 seek Ministry of Health advice on resources and learning programmes
- 6.1.8 monitor the implementation and delivery of the Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum in schools

6.2 The Ministry of Health agrees to :

- 6.2.1 provide professional advice to the Ministry of Education on the Health Curriculum, workshops and resources
- 6.2.2 assist advisers, lecturers and teachers to plan and deliver workshops and learning programmes by mutual agreement, accepting that delivery is mainly the responsibility of Ministry of Education employees
- 6.2.3 notify the Ministry of Education of regional and global aid agencies and programmes supportive of health education
- 6.2.4 develop or procure relevant resources to support the Health and Physical Well-being Curriculum

7. Healthy School Environments

7.1 The Ministry of Education agrees to :

- 7.1.1 develop and review guidelines on school health policies in consultation with the Ministry of Health and in line with National Health Strategies and the Health Promoting Schools philosophy
- 7.1.2 assist each school to develop and implement its own health promotion policies, procedures and programmes consistent with the Health Promoting Schools philosophy
- 7.1.3 comply with health standards established by the Ministry of Health for schools
- 7.1.4 comply with advice, requests and instructions from the Ministry of Health regarding potential or actual school closures due to health risks
- 7.1.5 monitor compliance with health policies and procedures

7.2 The Ministry of Health agrees to :

- 7.2.1 provide professional advice to the Ministry of Education and schools on school health policies
- 7.2.2 establish relevant health standards for schools in consultation with the Ministry of Education and schools
- 7.2.3 provide advice, relevant information and instructions to the Ministry of Education regarding potential or actual school closures due to health risks

8. Healthy Students

8.1 The Ministry of Education, through the Principal, agrees to :

- 8.1.1 maintain relevant health records on every student
- 8.1.2 notify the Ministry of Health and parents of any concern the school may have regarding the health of a student
- 8.1.3 cooperate with school health surveys conducted by the Ministry of Health
- 8.1.4 cooperate with the delivery by Ministry of Health of health services in schools

8.2 The Ministry of Health agrees to :

- 8.2.1 regularly check every student for eyesight, hearing and other health issues important to the student
- 8.2.2 with the appropriate consent, advise the school of the appropriate actions to be taken in regard to specific students with health conditions that need close monitoring and prompt attention
- 8.2.3 conduct surveys to determine the overall health of the student population and provide feedback to the Ministry of Education of survey results with recommendations for appropriate intervention
- 8.2.4 plan and deliver health services in each school in consultation with the Principal

9. Health Awareness

9.1 The Ministry of Education agrees to :

- 9.1.1 allow the Ministry of Health to communicate health issues to schools through the Education Gazette
- 9.1.2 facilitate communication between the Ministry of Health and schools through meetings arranged by mutual agreement with Principals
- 9.1.3 support Ministry of Health promotions with activities to be arranged through mutual agreement with Principals

9.2 The Ministry of Health agrees to :

- 9.2.1 communicate health issues to schools through the Education Gazette
- 9.2.2 inform the Ministry of Education and schools of the Ministry of Health annual plan for health promotions relevant to schools
- 9.2.3 conduct health promotions in schools through mutual agreement with individual Principals

10. Dispute Resolution

10. 1 In the unlikely event of any dispute arising in relation to the matters contained in this Memorandum, such dispute shall be resolved expeditiously by agreement between the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health.

10.2 This Memorandum may be amended or varied in writing at any time by mutual agreement between the parties.

11. Duration of Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding will commence on the date of execution and will only end if terminated by either party giving one month's notice in writing to the other party specifying an effective date of termination.

Signed on behalf of the Ministry of Education by the Secretary of Education, Ken Matheson

K. S. Matheson

Date : 7/5/04

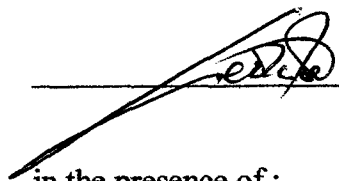
in the presence of:

Name: Debi Futter

Designation: Health + Physical Well-being Advisor

Signature: D. Futter Date 7.5.04.

Signed on behalf of the Ministry of Health by the Secretary of Health, Vaine Teokotai

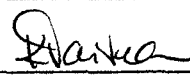


Date : 7th May 2004

in the presence of:

Name: KAREN TALEA

Designation: NUTRITIONIST

Signature:  Date : 7 May 2004