

# SPD Education Report

The Education Strategy House has four key strategies:

## ***1. Ensure Adventist Identity remains a key part of Adventist Education GC: I Will Go: Objectives 4-7***



This has been a key focus for the SPD Education Office. Workshops and teachers' meetings in Fiji, Samoa and the Western Solomons have focused on our Adventist Ethos, and many have left expressing their re-found passion for why they are Adventist Teachers. Stories of numerous school baptisms that do not appear to be recorded in our official data abound. The ASA Education Consultation 2 in Melbourne in August highlighted the significance of the partnership between church and school in disciple-making and kingdom growth.

The Faith Engagement – School Climate Research project is moving ahead well. There are 25 schools right across the South Pacific Division involved in this five-year longitudinal study. At least 30 focus groups have been conducted separate to the individual student surveys from Years 4 – 12 in 2022. The key finding so far is the relationship of the teacher and student is critical to faith development, school enjoyment and positive school climate, with the reverse being also true.



The initiative by NZPUC to run small group principal workshops on effective discipleship making and Adventist schools is to be lauded. Sarita Butler, the Associate NZPUC Education Director, has coordinated this and other Unions are also being encouraged to follow suit.

With the increasing broader community enrolment in our tertiary institutions and a desire to maximise our Adventist student numbers, we have had initial discussions on just how we make the on-campus experience both attractive and transformative in their relationship with God.

## ***2. Develop and grow our education leadership team GC: I Will Go: Objective 8***



The Advanced Study Committee has been incredibly blessed with just over double the pre-existing funds granted for this year. This has enabled us to provide much better future planning study options.

We continue to run the PD sessions within our twice-yearly SPD Education Leaders meetings, and it appears that they really enjoy the interaction and capacity building. Our Senior Leadership Conference held at Fulton Adventist University College in September was a wonderful experience as our available team got together for almost a week there.

## ***3. Continue to grow Adventist education's reputation with robust school improvement and effective governance. GC: I Will Go: Objective 5, 8***

School improvement through the QAS approach in several Unions is having an effect. It is pleasing to see the emphasis changing to culture building and ownership rather than compliance driven. Credit must go to ASA and Jacques Calais in particular, for driving this program in the early phases of it, and then being willing to on-share it with the TPUM.



The QAS is being rolled out across the TPUM with workshops being conducted in the Solomons, Tonga, Fiji and Samoa. I am also delighted with the intentional implementation of the Bible summary program in PNGUM that has lifted the exam results across our system there.

**It is also pleasing to note that the full Secondary Bible Curriculum for the Pacific has now been completed, printed and is being shipped out to our schools. This was a project begun back in 2010 by Ken Weslake. While it has been a more than a decade to get to this stage, it has been written by Pacific Bible teaching specialists, it is readable and well-presented and is a product that we can be justly proud of. And all accomplished within the overall budget of just over a quarter of a million dollars across the 12 years.**

#### **4. Ensuring the future of Adventist Education with MOUs and financial management standards GC: I Will Go: Objectives 2, 4**



I am delighted to see the educational challenges are on a much better footing in Fiji as Master Anasa Vateitei, the Fiji Mission Education Director, builds intentional relationships within the Ministry of Education. His knowledge of policy and personal network within the Ministry is already proving to be a real positive.

School and union visits post COVID restrictions has been very rewarding. While Zoom kept us in contact, the value of the face to face interactions across the Pacific is tangible and valuable.

Finally – I would like to pay tribute to the 46 years of service to Adventist Education that our retiring National Director for Adventist Schools Australia, Dr Daryl Murdoch, has given. He has been an outstanding educator and statesman for Adventist Education. He has left Adventist Education in a very strong position, and we thank him and Tiani for a powerful legacy as he moves into well-deserved retirement.



Baptism – Teacher Beulah College  
Kingdom of Tonga



Baptism – Lautoka Adventist School  
Fiji



Prime Minister Sponsored Students – Omaura  
Papua New Guinea



Tenakoga Students attending Church  
Solomon Islands