

Mathematics in the New Zealand Curriculum

1990

- Election of National Government and appointment of Hon Lockwood Smith as Minister of Education with manifesto policy for complete curriculum reform entitled the Achievement Initiative commencing with Mathematics;
- Minister Smith takes immediate action and asks Ministry to commence work on the Achievement Initiative policy commencing with the New Zealand Curriculum Framework and the curriculum statements for Mathematics and Science;
- Minister appoints policy advisory groups to develop specifications for the new mathematics and science curriculum statements. Maths group is chaired by Stuart Laird.
- Ministry contracts writers of mathematics curriculum;
- Draft curriculum statement written and approved by Policy Advisory Group and Minister. Statement initially six levels only, levels seven and eight added at a late stage of development;

1991

- Draft curriculum statement launched by Minister for consultation;
- Consultation concludes and work begins on revision with input from Policy Advisory Group;
- Minister Smith wins funding for teacher professional development as part of the 91/92 budget (recommended by the Policy Advisory Group and the Ministry);

1992

- *Mathematics in the New Zealand Curriculum* gazetted. Old syllabuses revoked. Schools expected to be taking “reasonable steps” towards the implementation of the new curriculum. ERO monitors implementation as part of regular school audits and reviews
- Centrally funded Professional Development commences;
- PPTA opposes implementation in response to breakdown in employment contract negotiations.

1993

- Centrally funded Professional Development continues;

1994

- Limited centrally funded Professional Development continues;
- Support for implementation from School Support Services;
- Teacher support material *Mathematical Processes* published and distributed to schools. Other support materials under development;
- Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS) testing of NZ students;
- Maori version of curriculum statement, Pangarau, published;
- School Certificate exam follows new curriculum statement.

1995

- Support for implementation from School Support Services continues;
- TIMMS results analysed for international comparisons
- ERO report on implementation of *Mathematics in the New Zealand Curriculum* published;
- Level seven and eight supplement to curriculum statement published.

1996

- Support for implementation from School Support Services continues;
- Teacher support material *Development Band Mathematics* published and distributed to schools;
- TIMMS results published.
- Prof Derek Holton report on teacher difficulties with Problem Solving published.

1997

- Government announces additional \$6million over three years in 97/98 Budget for implementation of Maths and Science taskforce recommendations.
- Maths and Science taskforce appointed by Ministers Creech and Donnelly – reports in November 1997;
- Teacher support material *Developing Mathematics Programmes* published and distributed to schools;

1998

- Publishing programme commences as per Task Force recommendations;
- Centrally funded Professional Development for Year Three teachers in mathematics commences as per Task Force recommendations;
- *Connected* – first series published;
- Development of *Problem Solving* web-site commences. On line from term one 1999;
- *Lighting Mathematical Fires* and *Thinking Mathematical Space* imported from Australia and distributed to schools;
- Government announces numeracy goal.

1999

- Centrally funded Professional Development for Year Three teachers in mathematics continues and expanded to regions not covered in 1998;
- *Problem Solving Mathematics* booklet and CDROM published and distributed to schools;
- *Connected* – 1999 series published;
- *Figure It Out* Level 2/3 published and distributed to schools
- *Junior Maths Review Group* convened to provides advice to Ministry on teaching mathematics to Years One to Three.
- Government announces revised NAGs with emphasis on numeracy at Years 1 – 6;

2000

- Publishing programme continues with *Figure It Out* and *Connected*;
- Centrally funded Professional Development for Year Three teachers in mathematics continues in regions not covered in 1998/99;
- *Count Me In Too* professional development pilot programme with 550 junior school teachers;
- *Counting On* professional development exploratory study with about 60 middle school teachers.