



Formulation of Education Sector Research Strategy

Building the evidence for informing policy and practice

1 Purpose

For the Education System and the Education Sector to improve, research capacity and capabilities that support decision-making informed by empirical data/ research, need to be established. This assignment seeks to address this through the formulation and development of an Education Research Sector Strategy and accompanying Action Plan to operationalize it.

2 Background

The Education Sector consists of the following Implementing Agencies: the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC), the Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA), and the National University of Samoa (NUS).

The Education Sector Plan clearly states under Programme 4.4 that:

“NUS will lead in the development of an Education Sector Research Strategy and an Action Plan to operationalize it. This will involve identifying research priorities at both sub-sector and whole sector levels. Mechanisms will be developed and coordinated by ESCD to ensure research findings and analysis are systematically used to inform policy and practice across the sector” (ESP, 2013, p.42).

In developing the Education Sector Plan, the three Implementing Agencies recognised the importance of making informed educational policy decisions based on empirical data. Hence, the need to have an Education Sector Research Strategy to strengthen sectoral capacity for research, evaluation, policy analysis and planning. Data generated annually by the three implementing agencies need to be relevant and of good quality. Data needs to be analysed efficiently and effectively to inform policy-decisions and positively influence resource allocations, effective classroom instructions and improved student outcomes.

3 Objectives

The strategy will be informed by key stakeholder perspectives, while recognising the unique operating context of each implementing agency and support the overarching goals of the Education Sector Plan 2013-2018. The completed Strategy and Action Plan that will support implementation in the FY2017/2018.

The Strategy and action plan will reflect the intention and purpose as established in the Education Sector Plan Goal 4.

4 Scope of work

- (1) Confirm research team and provide CVs as evidence of meeting expertise criteria
- (2) Develop a methodological framework for undertaking the project

- (3) Develop a work plan with recommended methodological framework, timelines and proposed costing
- (4) Identify Priorities for the remainder of the Education Sector Plan
- (5) Conduct a National Stakeholders Validation Workshop to validate the Strategy
- (6) Submit the finalised Education Sector Research Strategy & Action Plan to operationalize it.

4.1 Indicative Project Tasks

- (1) Undertake a rapid desk-top review of all relevant documents in consultation with NUS lead
- (2) Carry out a desktop review of relevant documents, related policies and programmes linked to research within the three agencies as well as other related local and international documents on best practices overseas.
- (3) Identify and confirm stakeholder mapping for the Education Sector Research Strategy
- (4) Facilitate consultations and interviews with identified key stakeholders on their views of what needs to be in a research strategy
- (5) Capture the relevant aspects of each implementing agencies' research and policy context
- (6) Draft the Sector Research Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan

5 Expertise requirement

The selected individual(s) ought to be experienced and established researchers within Samoa who meet the criteria below:

- Extensive research and reporting experience both in academia as well as with government and private consultancies
- Local and International experience in research and reporting
- Internal recruitment will also be considered to support internal capacity building and knowledge management within the education sector.

6 Deliverables and Timelines

Deliverable	Proposed Timeframe	Proposed Deadline
(1) Proposed Methodology	1 week	17 March 2017
(2) Document review	4 weeks	14 April
(3) Stakeholders Consultations	2 weeks	28 April
(4) Draft Research Strategy	1 week	5 May
(5) Validation Workshop	2 days	8-9 May
(6) Revisions	2 weeks	31 May
(7) Final Education Sector Research Strategy & Action Plan		15 June

7 Remuneration

The Vice-Chancellor and President and the Researcher(s) will negotiate the remuneration for this project. The settled remuneration will be subject to relevant tax laws, and in the case of NUS staff will be subject to the NUS Consultancy Policy.

8 Reporting

The successful researcher(s) will report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research:

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