

# PPTA Curriculum Support Days 2009

**Thursday, 12 March**

## Registrations

Registrations for the Curriculum Support Days have been pouring into PPTA national office for some weeks now. Although the original deadline for registration has passed, we can still receive registrations from schools, but please don't delay. Scheduling subjects, choosing venues and identifying facilitator needs all require accurate numbers.



## Resource development

On 6-7 April, up to 100 subject experts are gathering in Wellington for two days to develop the resources that will be used at the Curriculum Support Days. These resources will be for junior (Year 7-10) and senior (Year 11-13) subjects.

Each resource will show teachers how they might give effect to the New Zealand curriculum by making changes to how they teach what they currently teach, rather than having to completely rewrite their whole programmes. The experts developing the resources will take current favourite units of work, and interrogate them against the front sections of the curriculum, e.g. the Learning Area statements, the Vision, the Principles, the Values, the Effective Pedagogies and the Key Competencies. The final annotated resource will show how and why the unit was modified for the new context.

The subject experts have been recommended by subject associations and by school support services advisers. PPTA is working closely with school support services. They will be represented at the forum of subject experts, and are helping to plan and provide the training for the local facilitators.

## Programme for Support Days

From 9am to noon, teachers will work in junior subject groups, led by a local facilitator who will walk them through the resource provided and then guide them to begin work, with the help of their peers, on redeveloping their own favourite units of work, using a process similar to that exemplified in the resource.

Between noon and 1pm teachers will take a lunch break and move to their senior subject group, where they will follow a similar process. The afternoon session will finish by 4pm at the latest.

Teachers who work only at junior levels will be able to continue their morning process in the afternoon.

Teachers will need to bring to their Curriculum Support Day, preferably on their laptops, teaching units of their own that they wish to redevelop. NZ Secondary Principals' Council (NZSPC) co-chairperson Graeme Macann says, "It will be very helpful if teachers are prepared to take some of their own material along on the day so they can use the process modelled. In many cases existing units of work will be able to be adapted to meet the needs of the new curriculum rather than being completely rewritten."

Teachers will also need to bring their personal copies of the New Zealand curriculum, because they will be asked to check their work against that document.

These days are focused on teaching and learning, not on assessment, and we are keen that the afternoon sessions on senior subjects do not become preoccupied by issues around the current review of standards. While the revised standards do not begin to be introduced until 2011, the “front end” of the curriculum must be taken into account by teachers in senior classes from the start of 2010, and the Curriculum Support Days aim to provide teachers with tools to do this.

### **Choosing the right session**

There have been some questions about where certain subjects should go, especially in the morning (junior) session. These have come from subjects such as Home Economics and Economics. Teachers should make their decision on the basis of the learning area in which their subject is positioned, e.g. Home Economics generally sits within Health, whereas Food Technology sits within Technology.

### **Subject availability**

We are still checking numbers to determine subject availability in smaller centres. We hope to cover this in the next newsletter. Please note, Religious Education is not being offered in any centre.



# **WANTED**

## **More local CSD facilitators**

### **Are you:**

- enthusiastic about your subject and the new curriculum?
- prepared to work with a group of teachers (20-30 people max) on the day?
- able to communicate with other facilitators and PPTA before and after your CSD?

### **We offer:**

- a training kit.
- a package of junior and senior materials, developed by subject association nominees, with Rose Hipkins.
- online resources.
- networks to communicate with other facilitators, via email and online forums.
- a two-hour, face-to-face, training session (usually the day before your CSD).

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