

Wednesday, 21 October 2009

Assoc. Professor Samuel Mann
Otago Polytechnic
Private Bag 1910
Dunedin 9054

National Office: c/- Massey University
Wellington Campus
Private Box 756
WELLINGTON
New Zealand

Dear Samuel

Feedback on your expression of interest to the Ako Aotearoa National Project Fund

Project Number: RI09 - 040

Project Title: *Education for Sustainability for Every Student*

Thank you again for your expression of interest for this fund: this letter provides you with specific feedback. Although your expression of interest was not successful in this round, we hope that these comments will assist you with developing future applications.

Shortlisted expressions of interest were those that the panel felt aligned most closely with the strategic goals of Ako Aotearoa, expressed the clearest evidence-based need for the project, developed a robust project design/method, and had the potential for the most impact in improving outcomes for learners.

Strengths of the Proposed Project

The project proposes an internationally relevant project on embedding education for sustainability into tertiary education. The level of engagement proposed within the application was a significant strength of the project. The panel acknowledges the expertise of the project team established and has every confidence that this multi-organisational collaboration would successfully complete the project.

Areas for Improvement

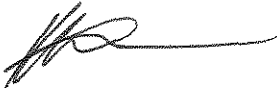
Ultimately however, the panel decided that the project was not sufficiently focused on tertiary teaching and learning. Instead the project represented an approach to embed particular values among learners. Although this approach is highly commendable, it was felt that it is not within the mandate of the National Project Fund to advocate for a particular values based approach to education. The panel felt that the application would more appropriately be targeted at an organisation such as the Ministry of the Environment.

For an application such as this to be supported through the National Project Fund it would need to clearly demonstrate how education for sustainability results in measurable educational outcomes for learners over and above an adoption of a particular values system.

Again, we hope that this feedback helps with the development of future applications and wish you all the best with other funding bids. If you have any questions about these comments or about the process generally, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Weir
Research Manager

cc: Jenny Aimers, Otago Polytechnic