

Play.sport evaluation: Information for the Play.sport workforce

Greetings / Tena koe / Kia orana / Malo e lelei / Talofa lava / Taloha ni / Ni sa bula vinaka / Fakaalofa atu

The University of Waikato, and NZCER, have been contracted by Sport New Zealand to provide evaluation services for Play.sport during 2016-2018. The purpose of this information sheet is to introduce ourselves and provide you with a brief overview of the range of planned activities, and how you might be involved.

What does the evaluation involve?

The initial focus of the NZCER and University of Waikato teams is working with the Play.sport workforce, schools, and community stakeholders to assist in building Play.sport. Over time we will also document some of the learnings and changes that result from this initiative. The focus of the evaluation is **not about evaluating the practice of individuals or individual schools**.

NZCER and Waikato University will be providing different types of evaluation services as shown below.

<p>The NZCER evaluation has two main aims:</p> <p>1) The short-term aim is to provide information to assist in building Play.sport. Later in 2016 and 2017 NZCER will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contacting some Play.sport PE Mentors and Curriculum Facilitators, community partners, and school staff to talk about how the initiative is developing, and to hear ideas about future directions sending short online surveys to Play.sport Activators and Sports Coordinators; and baseline surveys to some students and teachers at each school. <p>2) The longer-term aim is to document the main outcomes and changes that Play.sport is supporting in schools and communities, and the factors that influenced change. In 2018 NZCER will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talking to some Play.sport workforce members and community partners about changes that are occurring in their communities visiting a few schools to develop case studies of change sending school students and teachers follow up surveys using the data from existing datasets to see what this can tell us about change. 	<p>The main aim of the University of Waikato evaluation is to develop a picture of current practice, feed in to the development of the initiative in each school context (in the West Auckland community) and explore how the Play.sport initiative progresses and with what outcomes. As part of a collaborative inquiry approach, the Waikato team will be working with you as co-researchers</p> <p>What will the co-research process involve? Initially we will be working together (with those working in the same school as you) to develop a picture of current practice. This picture will assist us collectively to review, identify, and respond to the unique contextual needs of each school community you are working in. It will involve working with your schools and collecting some existing school documents (e.g., curriculum plans), undertaking observations, and engaging the school community in forums and informal discussions. The approach being used mirrors the <i>Teaching as Inquiry</i> model outlined in NZC. The cyclic nature of the approach, along with the regular contact between co-researchers and the school community, will support on-going dialogue.</p>
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How will the findings from the evaluation be shared and reported?

One principle of the evaluation is that findings should be useful to the different groups that are involved, and contribute to decision-making that improves practice. Therefore we will be feeding back information to schools and communities, as well as writing reports and discussing findings with Sport New Zealand and other interested partners.

Ethics and confidentiality

Many of you will be involved in the evaluation activities that are planned to support the development of Play.sport over 2016 to 2018. Those of you working in the West Auckland communities will play a dual role as co-researchers and Play.sport workforce members (for the Waikato aspect of the evaluation). Many Play.sport workforce members and community partners will also be invited to contribute to the NZCER aspects of the evaluation.

Evaluation processes rest on the principles of informed consent, protection of the rights and welfare of participants, and confidentiality. For each activity we will tell you about the processes we will use to make sure we uphold these principles. The evaluation approaches will be reviewed and approved by the NZCER or University of Waikato ethics committee.

This evaluation was signalled in the Play.sport letter of offer to schools. We encourage you to take part in evaluation activities. It is very important that the education and sport sector has good information about how to develop new approaches such as Play.sport, and the changes that might result from this initiative. This information will assist schools and agencies such as Sport New Zealand to build Play.sport and make future decisions.

What happens next?

We really appreciate this opportunity to work with you. Either NZCER or University of Waikato staff may be contacting you with more information about any evaluation activities that involve you.

NZCER and University of Waikato contacts

A team of people are providing evaluation services from NZCER and the University of Waikato. Please contact the people below if you have any queries.

Sally Boyd	Project leader (NZCER)	04 802 1466	sally.boyd@nzcer.org.nz
Kirsten Petrie	Project leader (Waikato)	07 838 4500 ext 6544	kpetrie@waikato.ac.nz

West Auckland Play.sport Personnel - Additional Information

Over the next three years you will be having close interaction with children, teachers, principals and the wider school community. As well as being there to support the school and wider community with the enactment of Play.sport you will be taking on the role as co-researchers, working alongside university-based researchers from the University of Waikato [Kirsten Petrie and Clive Pope] and University of Auckland [Darren Powell], documenting the learnings and changes that result from the Play.sport initiative. We will be using the collaborative practitioner research (CPR) inquiry approach, which we discussed during the initial Play.sport Hui. We will collective work to ensure this is not an add-on to your workload, but instead works to assist you in making sense of what is happening and what the next steps will be for your specific contexts.

This approach is **not about evaluating individuals or the school**, instead it is designed to provide an iterative evaluation of the Play.sport initiative and to inform us about how we can develop our approach in ways that best reflect the unique needs of your school context.

This approach to research and evaluation is marked by reciprocity. University-based researchers will ensure you as co-researchers are supported to develop your research and evaluative skills, while in turn you will bring local and sector specific knowledge to the conversation. Together we will undertake data collection and analysis to inform each step of the evolving Play.sport project. Working with us, university-based researchers, you will be uniquely positioned to have a voice in the Play.sport project decision-making and evaluation as we gather and analyse evidence to inform evolving practice in school and community settings.

We collectively will be using a range of methods to collect evidence include: observing teachers, children and other providers of physical activity, sport and PE in the classroom and playground; collecting documents that relate to the Play.sport initiative (e.g. school policies, programmes, classroom materials, school newsletters); and having formal informal research conversations (group and one-on-one). Also you will be asked to record evidence of your understandings, opinions, and experiences as they relate to the Play.sport initiative.

We, the university-based researchers, will be working alongside you to help you make sense of the research process including the ethics of research, to interrogate the data generated, and then in collaboration with your PD support and the Play.sport leadership team plan the next steps for implementation. Over time we are also keen to explore opportunities for us to work alongside you in disseminating your aspects of the researcher to the broader PE, PA, sport community in the form of conference presentations and publications.

If you have any queries about the study please approach **Kirsten Petrie**, 07 8384500 ext 6544, kpetrie@waikato.ac.nz.