

## **Play.sport evaluation: Information for school principals and leaders (April, 2016)**

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

### **Why have I received this information sheet?**

We are contacting you as your school has recently joined *Play.sport*. NZCER and the University of Waikato have been contracted by Sport New Zealand to provide evaluation services for *Play.sport* during 2016-2018.

#### **What is *Play.sport*?**



*Play.sport* aims to build a system that ensures all young people in a community have access to quality, fun, and challenging physical activity, PE, and sport experiences that help them to be active, engaged, learning, and succeeding. *Play.sport* is a long-term approach led by Sport New Zealand in partnership with schools, communities, sporting organisations, and Government agencies. For more information see:

<http://www.sportnz.org.nz/managing-sport/programmes-and-projects/play-sport>

The purpose of this information sheet is to introduce ourselves and provide you with a **brief overview of the different evaluation activities**, and how you or your school might be involved. **You do not have to do anything now**. We will be contacting schools with more information about each activity as it occurs.

### **What does the evaluation involve?**

*Play.sport* is a new initiative; therefore the initial focus of the NZCER and University of Waikato teams is working with you and the *Play.sport* workforce **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 how individual schools are progressing**, it is about building a picture of how *Play.sport* contributes to change. NZCER and Waikato University will be providing different types of evaluation services as shown below.

 <p><b>The NZCER evaluation has two main aims:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Short-term:</b> providing information to assist in building <i>Play.sport</i></li> <li>2) <b>Longer-term:</b> documenting the main outcomes and changes to practice that occur for schools</li> </ol> <p><b>How will schools be involved?</b> To hear about the factors that influence how well <i>Play.sport</i> is working in your school or community we will visit some schools and talk to school leaders, teachers, and students (2016 and 2017).</p> <p>To learn about the changes that are occurring in your school or community we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• send your school baseline (2016) and follow up surveys (2018) for students and teachers</li> <li>• visit a few schools to develop case studies of change (2018).</li> </ul> <p><b>Who will NZCER contact first?</b> The <i>Play.sport</i> contact teacher or principal at your school.</p> <p><b>Who else will NZCER be working with?</b> We will also be talking to some <i>Play.sport</i> workforce members and community partners.</p>	 <p><b>The main aim of the University of Waikato evaluation</b> is to work with <i>Play.sport</i> PE mentors and Curriculum facilitators as co-researchers. These mentors and facilitators will be working with you and your school community to develop a picture of current practice, and explore how the <i>Play.sport</i> initiative progresses.</p> <p><b>How will schools be involved?</b> As part of a collaborative inquiry approach, co-researchers will draw on their interactions in your school community to review, identify, and respond to your unique contextual needs. This will involve the collection of some existing school documents (e.g., curriculum plans), undertaking observations, and engaging the school community in forums and informal discussions.</p> <p>The approach being used mirrors the <i>Teaching as Inquiry</i> model outlined in the <i>NZ Curriculum</i>. The cyclic nature of the approach, along with the regular contact between co-researchers and the school community, will support on-going dialogue.</p> <p><b>Who will Waikato team contact first?</b> The <i>Play.sport</i> PE mentors and Curriculum facilitators working in your school.</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**

This evaluation was signalled in the *Play.sport* letter of offer to schools. At a later date we will be inviting you to take part in evaluation activities. 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.

We encourage you to take part in the 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 will be contacting you with more information about the evaluation activities that involve you. You may also receive emails and information about the evaluation from the *Play.sport* workforce members you are working with.

## **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.

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