

VESP View

VANUATU EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

June 2018

Issue 10: “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta”; a national effort to raise awareness



On Friday 1st June 2018, the Minister of Education and Training, Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua, launched the national early education awareness campaign of “We all support children in their early learning”; part of a successful celebration of The Global Day of Parents. The celebration, with the support of Vanuatu Education Support Program (VESP), included a march of the community, parents and children to highlight the importance of every child having access to school and opportunities to learn.

The second phase of support to MoET to raise parents and communities’ awareness

The 6 Yia Klas 1 campaign was conducted in 2016 and 2017. It focused on increasing awareness of the right age to enrol children. An evaluation, carried out by ABC International in July 2017, highlighted that this 6 Yia Klas 1 campaign has successfully increased awareness about the seriousness of right age enrolment and the importance of informing parents and communities. One of the main recommendations was to plan and conduct a second phase to increase awareness on what children learn in schools and why using the child’s first language as the language of instruction from Kindy to Year 3, with English or French introduced in Year 1, can improve children’s literacy and numeracy.

The objective of Early Learning Advocacy Campaign, “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta” in Bislama, is to provide key information to parents and the communities. Building on 6 Yia Klas 1 evaluation, the most efficient communications tools have been identified as community events, schools, radio and the mobile phone.

Support to MoET in developing communication skills

To develop skills within the Ministry of Education and Training, and as part of empowering and supporting communities, the “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta” campaign included a two-day training session for MoET staff. The objective of the training was to develop generic communications skills and provide basic tools to assist in communicating complex ideas to the general public. ABC International delivered a customised one-week training course in Port-Vila including the theoretical knowledge and practical group activities. The participants from the various MoET departments, the communities and VESP were also supported through tools to disseminate knowledge, using a “train the trainers” approach. The training was also the opportunity for MoET and VESP to perfect the “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta” awareness approach and materials before the launch.



Thousands of people at the National launch of “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta”

The Minister of Education and Training, Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua, the MoET Director General, Bergmans Iati, the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Susan Ryle, the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner, Jeong Park, and the Police Commissioner, Albert Nalpini, launched the Ministry’s campaign, “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta”. The campaign banner was unveiled in front of thousands of students, teachers, principals and parents at the Sea Front Stage. The day started with a parade from Fatumaru Park to Sea Front and the day continued with students’ performances and awareness speeches from MoET experts. The campaign focuses on the importance for children to learn in their first language and the key role played by parents and communities in support of their children’s learning. The five key messages are:

- ✓ All children have the right to go to school
- ✓ Children learn better in their first language
- ✓ Support children’s learning at home and school
- ✓ Demonstrate good attitudes and behaviours towards children
- ✓ Involve children in learning and promote discovery learning

“The key to their success is us, the parents and how much we care about them. We care about our children, we try our best to offer them the best education and help our country, Vanuatu, as a whole”, Minister of Education and Training, Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua

The ELAC awareness campaign launched in the outer islands

Following the national launch in Port Vila, the “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta” campaign was delivered in the provinces of Torba, Penama and Sanma in June 2018. The Nereningman community hosted the event in Torba, while the other launches took place at Lomahuri Community Hall in Pentecost and at the Luganville Market House in Santo. “Yumi evriwan i sapotem ol pikinini long eli lening blong olgeta” in Torba, Penama and Sanma has already reached over 2,488 people across 22 locations.

The ELAC campaign will also be launched in Malampa and Tafea in the coming weeks. Provinces and communities are taking ownership of the campaign and the awareness sessions will continue until the end of the year.



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