

**Advancing the implementation of MoET-led Foundational Learning Reform  
\*\*Curriculum Improvement Program (CIP) from Kindy to Year 3\*\***



▲ MoET Senior Officers from Education Services, CDU, SBM along with PCIOs and VAESP Senior Officers

From Monday 16 to Friday 20 February, eight Provincial Curriculum Improvement Officers (PCIOs) from across the country participated in a VAESP-facilitated refresher training including the implementation of morning routine and read aloud to students. They presented the progress of their work in supporting Kindy to Year 3 teachers and principals. PCIOs have been working to empower teachers and school leaders to improve the quality of early childhood and primary education in 40 focus schools.

“We are committed to equipping our PCIOs with the tools and knowledge they need to support teachers and principals effectively. This week has been instrumental in giving them new strategies to further strengthen foundational learning, not only in literacy but also in numeracy. Their enhanced skillset will have a direct, positive impact on the classrooms they support,” said Mrs Nanise Lapi, MoET Director of Education Services

“The focus on foundational years is critical. By strengthening early education, we’re laying the groundwork for the future of our children. The commitment to high-impact teaching practices in our schools is already showing positive results, and we’re excited to see that expand,” said Olivia Keith, Torba Province PCIO.

From 23 to 27 February, 23 newly appointed school principals and 4 deputy principals from across Vanuatu gathered for a comprehensive induction training designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to effectively lead their schools and support teachers and students success.

The VAESP-facilitated School Principals’ Induction Training was led by the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) in partnership with the MoET School-Based Management (SBM) Unit. Together, they have developed a strengthened induction program aimed at better supporting newly appointed school leaders as they transition into their leadership roles.

“Strong leadership is essential to achieving quality education outcomes. This new induction program reflects our commitment to ensuring that every newly appointed principal is confident, capable, and well-supported from day one. When we strengthen school leadership, we strengthen the entire education system,” said Jesse Avock Joe, TSC Chair.



▲ Jesse Avock Joe, TSC Chair, delivers a speech to launch the School Principals’ Induction Training

The Malampa Education Office has demonstrated strong leadership in advancing Vanuatu’s Foundational Learning Reform, as principals, teachers, students, and communities came together for a successful education advocacy activity held in Norsup on Friday 27 March.

The event brought together Malampa’s CIP five focus primary schools—Rensarie Primary School, Lakatoro Primary School, Vao Primary School, Brenwei Primary School, and Norsup Primary School—to showcase the practical implementation of new, high-impact teaching strategies aimed at strengthening literacy and numeracy in the early years of education—morning routine and read aloud to students.

Parents, local authorities, Chiefs, and community leaders attended in large numbers, witnessing firsthand how classrooms are changing to place learning at the heart of education.

“Malampa is proud to be at the forefront of this important reform. What we are seeing today is real progress—teachers are more confident, students are more engaged, and communities are more involved. This is how we build a stronger education system for our province and our country,” said Malampa Provincial Education Officer, Renjo Samuel.

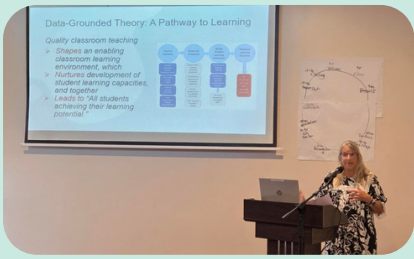


▲ Fany Rose Betsesai, class one teacher of Brenwei Primary School, presents the morning routine



▲ MoET Senior Officers with VBTC Staff

On Wednesday 25 February, Marcel Yamsiu, MoET Principal Education Officer for Education Services, led a delegation that included Senior Officers from the Curriculum Development Unit and the MoET Communications Officer. Facilitated by VAESP, they visited the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) team to present the MoET-led Foundational Learning Reform. The purpose of this visit was to provide essential background information and key educational messages to the national media.



On Thursday 19 February, Liz Randolph, Education System Reform Specialist, presented to MoET Senior Officers the preliminary results of the VAESP-supported Vanuatu school positive deviance study.

The objective of this study was to identify how and why some schools generate strong learning outcomes despite a generally low-performance context, and to use those lessons to inform decision-making for broader systemic reform.

◀ Liz Randolph presents the preliminary results of the Vanuatu positive school deviance study

From Monday 23 to Friday 27 March, MoET six Early Childhood Education (ECE) Provincial Coordinators and 10 ECE teachers from Shefa CIP focus kindy participated in a VAESP-facilitated training to use the recently lunched kindergarten program for five-years old children. They were also introduced to the new ECE teaching and learning resources including picture cards and stimulus posters.

“Kindergarten is a very important stage in a child’s life. At this age, children develop the basic skills that will help them succeed in school and later in life. This new program will guide teachers to provide joyful learning experiences that support children’s holistic development while preparing them for primary education,” said Edgar Tarigarae, the acting National ECE Coordinator



▲ MoET senior officers, TSC Chair, and VAESP officers launch the ECE teaching and learning resources training with ECE Provincial Coordinators and Shefa ECE focus school teachers

## Building climate resilient and inclusive education facilities



On 11 February, the Vanuatu Government celebrated the official opening of Beverly Hills School, a new six-classroom school built under a partnership between the Governments of Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand.

Vanuatu Prime Minister, the Honourable Jotham Napat, thanked Australia and New Zealand and the Beverly Hills community for their shared commitment.

“Today we see the power of partnership in action. When governments, partners and communities work together, we build not just classrooms, but opportunities for every child in Vanuatu.”

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed the Government’s focus on foundational learning. “Providing strong foundational learning environments is essential for Vanuatu’s bright future. Our children deserve the best possible conditions to learn, read, write and count—because only then they can fulfil their potential and become the leaders of tomorrow.”

▲ Vanuatu Prime Minister Napat officially opens Beverly Hills School with Minister of MoET Minister Simil, Australian High Commissioner Willis, New Zealand High Commissioner Kemp, School Council Chair and students

From 23–25 March, VAESP supported a monitoring visit to Australian-funded school reconstruction projects on Tanna Island, led by MoET Project Manager, Tussia Leriki Jessa with support from Infrastructure Specialist, Larry Abel. The visit covered community-built triple-classroom projects at Ipekel and Port Resolution Primary Schools, each employing 16 local workers. Construction began in January 2026 and is expected to finish by July 2026. Progress has reached wall construction, with foundations and slabs completed. Works were delayed for three weeks due to cyclone-damaged roads affecting material supply. Despite this, strong community support continues, with regular stakeholder meetings and local efforts to repair access roads to keep the projects on track.



▲ Construction of a community-built triple-classroom project in Port Resolution, Tanna Island

## Strengthening the education system

From 27 January to 4 February, VAESP facilitated a workshop with the MoET Internal Audit Officers to assess the internal audit manual. As a result, the manual was updated to align with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

Following the workshop, Ms. Andrina Woi, the MoET Internal Audit Principal Education Officer, distributed the draft manual to the Internal Audit Manager at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management and to the Office of the National Audit Office for feedback.



## Strengthening the education system



The MoET Information and Technology (IT) Unit, with the support of VAESP, has enhanced the IT systems in nine schools across Shefa Province. This initiative includes:

- Installation of Starlink internet access equipment
- Connectivity improvements
- Digital literacy training for teachers and principals

Additionally, for schools that are off the grid, solar panels have been installed.

◀ *A Primary school on Efate Island equips with solar panel and Starlink equipment*

From 31 March to 2 April, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Unit of MoET, with support from VAESP, developed its first Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework.

Led by the MoET ECE Unit, the three-day MEL workshop also included the six ECE provincial coordinators, CDU Primary Coordinators, VAESP MEL Specialist and VAESP Planning and Systems Manager.

The workshop covered various topics, including problem tree analysis, theory of change, program logic, indicator mapping, MEL tool review, and roles and responsibilities.



*The MoET ECE team works with VAESP officers to develop the ECE MEL framework* ▶

## Enhancing the Vanuatu workforce through Australia Awards Vanuatu

### Mobilisation of 2026 Intake Awardees

Australia Awards Vanuatu (AAV) has effectively coordinated the mobilisation of 24 Australia awardees to Fiji and Australia for the commencement of Semester 1.

This success highlights the efficient management of pre-departure activities, travel arrangements, and institutional engagement processes.

*2026 Australia awardees during the pre-departure briefing in Port Vila* ▶



### Completed Promotions in Shefa Schools, Santo, and Tanna

AAV conducted several promotional awareness activities in Year 13 secondary schools on Efate, Tanna, and Santo islands. Additionally, public information sessions were held in Lenakel, Luganville and Port Vila, successfully engaging a significant number of prospective applicants and stakeholders.

◀ *Australia Awards promotional awareness activity In Montmartre School, on Efate Island*

### New Graduates Reintegration Workshop

A successful reintegration workshop took place on Tuesday, 17 March 2026. This event welcomed 15 graduates from the class of 2025 across various key sectors, supporting their transition into the workforce and tackling practical and professional reintegration challenges.



*AAV alumni with Australian High Commission and VAESP representatives* ▶



Ministry of Education & Training  
Government of Vanuatu



Vanuatu-Australia  
Partnership



The VAESP leadership team has delivered key reports to the Education Team at the Australian High Commission, ensuring the program effectively supports MoET in achieving its goals. This includes the 2025 VAESP Annual Report, the 2025 AAV Annual Report, the 2026 VAESP Annual Plan, the 2026 AAV Annual Plan and the Outcome Harvest Report.



### Meet Rebecca Pursche

Rebecca is the new VAESP Operations Manager since 6 January.

Rebecca is an international development practitioner with experience overseeing program delivery and operations in complex environments. She has worked with government, NGO and multilateral partners on education, justice and peacebuilding initiatives across the Indo-Pacific. She is passionate about practical, locally driven approaches that create meaningful and lasting impact.

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### Tankyu tumas, Sonia Wasi



Sonia has concluded her role as the VAESP GEDSI Activity Officer as of March 20.

Over the years, she has been an invaluable member of our team. The VAESP Team deeply appreciates the time she dedicated to the program and the expertise she contributed to support our initiatives.

We wish Sonia all the best in her future endeavours!

## Remembering John Niroa



The VAESP Team is profoundly saddened by the loss of John Niroa. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, community, and all who knew and worked alongside him.

John was a leader, a mentor, and a highly respected figure in Vanuatu's education sector. His journey in education was marked by dedication, vision, and a commitment to service. From his early leadership as Principal of Tafea College shortly after its inception to his positions at Epi High School and Malapoa College, John consistently exemplified excellence and a passion for nurturing young minds.

His influence extended well beyond the school grounds. As the Director of Secondary Education and Extension Services, he was instrumental in shaping national education frameworks and policies. He played a crucial role in introducing the New Zealand Bursary Examination at Malapoa College, which represented a significant advancement in academic standards.

Not only was John a leader, but he was also a visionary. In 1998, alongside Roy Obed, he guided school leaders nationwide, enhancing management practices and contributing to the establishment of the Inspection and Advisory Units under the Education Act of 2001.

John was a pioneer of the Rethinking Pacific Education movement and led the significant 2004 conference that laid the groundwork for the Vanuatu Education Summit in 2006—an essential milestone for education in our country.

Since joining VAESP in 2013, John became an invaluable advisor and mentor. His insight, humility, and commitment to the future of Vanuatu's children made him a cornerstone of our work.

John's legacy extends beyond his accomplishments. He was a compassionate, thoughtful, and strategic individual who truly believed in the transformative power of education. He will be greatly missed—not only for his achievements but for the remarkable person he was.

On behalf of the VAESP team, we offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife, son, three daughters, and beloved grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this challenging time.

May he rest in peace.



# Snaps of our education partnership



MoET's 6 ECE Provincial Coordinators participate in the ECE teaching and learning resources training - 23/03/2026



PCIO, MoET and VAESP officers participate in the PCIO refresher training - 18/02/2026



MoET Administration, Asset and Project Management Unit PEO with Beverly Hills School Council members and VAESP officer discussion preparation work for the opening ceremony of the school - 05/02/2026



TSC Acting Secretary General, MoET SBM PEO and MoET Education Services PEO at the School Principals' Induction Training - 23/02/2026



VAESP senior officers hands over laminating machines and materials to MoET ECE team to distribute to Provincial Education Offices - 22/01/2026



The MoET Communications Officer conducts a media interview with the Education Services PEO regarding MoET's leading role in executing the foundational learning reform - 20/02/2026



VAESP team lunch at Port Vila market - 25/02/2026



VAESP team farewells Liz Randolph - 25/02/2026



VAESP senior officer explains instructional leadership during School Principals' Induction training - 27/02/2026



MoET and VAESP senior officers participates in the presentation of the preliminary results of Vanuatu positive school deviance study - 19/02/2026



MoET CDU Senior Officers present CIP data wall during the PCIO refresher training - 16/02/2026



MoET ECE Acting National Coordinator shares essential ECE messages with journalists - 25/03/2026



MoET and VAESP officers collaborate with Malampa Education Officers for advocacy activity preparation - 26/03/2026

