

Case study 9: MET – supporting schools in all things digital

MET was formed in 2011 and grew from the Manaiakalani cluster of schools in East Auckland before expanding to support other clusters throughout New Zealand.^{293,377} The MET partners with communities of learning throughout New Zealand, helping them embrace the pedagogy underpinning The Manaiakalani Programme and supporting them with digital infrastructure and, at times, devices. The focus of MET is on lower socioeconomic communities. The PLD offering includes a programme called the digital fluency intensive, which seeks to equip teachers with the ability to:

- Use the basic tools young people use for learning.
- Use the basic tools for effective teaching, planning, assessment, and professional learning.
- Understand how digital technologies, when used effectively, can accelerate achievement outcomes.
- Understand how to maximise the impact of effective teaching and learning in a digital learning environment.

The intensive PLD occurs over nine sessions and, after the course, offers continuing peer support for teachers to keep in contact with one another, something the PLD team sees as key to teachers having the ongoing support to implement and expand on what they learn during their course. The Manaiakalani Programme includes support through its Cybersmart Programme that equips teachers with knowledge about digital citizenship, including lesson plans that support them in implementing this knowledge.²⁹⁵

One topic included in this programme is SmartMedia which addresses media and information literacy.²⁹⁴ The resources are drawn from various places, and teachers are encouraged to adapt their lesson plans and send their adapted plans back to the Manaiakalani PLD team so that teachers can see the different ways the content can be adapted for local contexts and what has worked well in other classes. They also offer Manaiakalani Class OnAir, which showcases videos of teachers teaching a lesson to a class and an extended lesson plan; the idea is that seeing a lesson in action can build teachers' confidence and knowledge to implement this in their own class. The MET is relatively small and has a small number of people serving over 120 schools; they are punching above their weight, and there is substantive potential to expand their programme. They identify the need for more resources and lesson plans to support teachers and schools. MET sees the national response to addressing media and information literacy and digital citizenship as vital.

References

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