

## **Envisioning the Future Project**

Our project - to re-examine the way we offer mathematics in the “Stepping Out” years (the final two years of secondary and first two years of university) - held a final conference in Wellington in the week before Easter 2011. The conference was not originally part of the project, but budget savings enabled us to gather together a group of people to discuss how to implement the vision that has been generated during the project.

About 50 teachers, university lecturers, Ministry of Education, Ako Aotearoa, Statistics NZ and NZQA attended. Two invited addresses (Stephen McConnachie from Linwood College and Neil Challis from Sheffield-Hallam University) stimulated discussion on each of the two days, and a final address (Angela Jones from the Ministry of Education and Wellington Mathematics Association) gave us a qualifications perspective.

During the conference there was a questioning of the details of the vision, and a discussion about how such details need to emerge through ongoing, context-specific collaborations. Some specific suggestions were made, for example, to broaden the range of resources currently available on the NZIMA and NZAMT websites—these are to be followed up by the project team.

The conference produced a plan to form small working groups to focus on a specific implementation of the vision. Each group will include both school-teachers and university lecturers, and will probably have 6-8 members. It will identify a year-level, and a venue for offering a mathematical experience (a module, a course, or a whole year curriculum) in line with the principles of the project’s vision.

We envisage the separate groups keeping in contact with each other, for example at the NZ Mathematics Colloquium, and the project team committed to seeking funding for implementing the courses that get designed.

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