

SCG Tranche 3: Building a Website for the Ministry of Education and Training (MET)

Case Study: From Dream to Reality: Delivering Safe and Reliable Education Information in the Digital Age

Authored by the CEO of the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) – Mr. 'Isikeli Oka.

Like many other island countries in the Pacific, most educational information and resources in Tonga lived on paper. Circulars had to be printed and delivered to schools, forms had to be photocopied and distributed and policies and guidelines sat in office binders. This often led to delays in decision making, exclusion of parents, teachers or students who didn't see the noticeboard or got the information delivered too late.



Increasingly plagued by misinformation and disinformation, the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) recognised the urgent need for a centralised, safe, and reliable digital platform – a website that would ensure timely access to important information and news for all

Save the Children Australia (SCA), in recognising the importance of accessibility to educational information, offered its support to make this a reality. SCA's Project Management Unit (PMU) in Tonga worked alongside, a local programmer to co-design a modern, user-friendly online platform that would serve as the new MET website. The expert committed to deliver the Ministry's dream in a local way was great.

Reflecting MET's commitment to transparency, innovation and education excellence, the new website prioritises quick access to policies, strategic plans, corporate plans, curriculum guides, new updates and interactive forms and downloadable resources, including SCA's Child

Protection policies and the Anti-bullying Guideline. The website also links to key programs such as National Exam schedules and the Hama e-learning Platform (HeLP).

“It was important to us that people are aware of the policies that are in place that protect the rights and wellbeing of children. By supporting MET, we can also ensure that our child protection policies are accessible and available to everyone visiting the MET website, including teachers and children” said Lilieta Takau, SCA Tonga Country Lead.

Regular user, *Dr. Robin Havea, Director of USP Tonga Campus* said “When I first saw the new MET website, I honestly thought MET had always had a stable platform but that wasn’t the case. The new site is simple, clear, and easy to follow. Its purpose was immediately obvious, and it feels professional without being complicated.”

“What impressed me most is the relevance of the content—all the important policies and documents are right there. Overall, this is a good initiative. The foundation is strong, and with small improvements in design and organisation, the MET website will become an even more powerful tool for education in Tonga.” Dr. Have added.

“This project is not just about a website, it’s about setting a standard for digital engagement in education. MET is committed to continuous improvement, ensuring the platform evolves alongside user needs and technological advances. By embracing digital tools, we are empowering our communities, enhancing transparency, and supporting our vision of a quality education for all Tongans.” Isikeli Oko, *CEO, Ministry of Education and Training*

Since its launch, the MET website has become a central hub for education information in Tonga. Teachers report easier access to curriculum updates, students can navigate scholarship and program opportunities faster, and parents feel more connected to their children’s education journey.

[Student Impact Story: Preparing for Success from Home](#)

Peata Amelia Liavahalupenita Sili, 17 years old, Student.

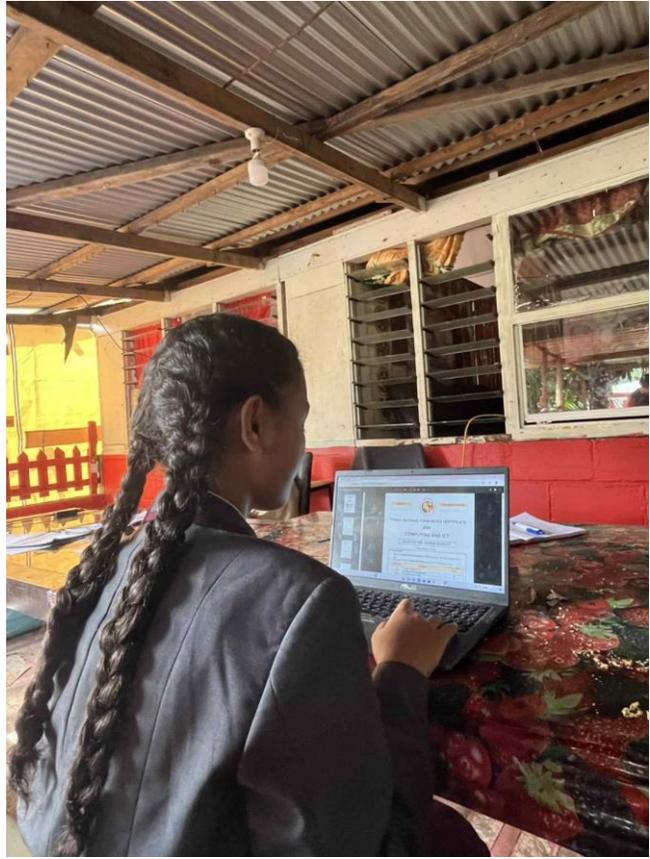
For students like Peata, the MET website has transformed exam preparation from a challenge into an accessible, empowering experience. One of the website's most valuable features - the past exam papers section - has become an essential tool for students across Tonga.

A Game-Changer for Exam Preparation

"Yes, very useful. My friends access it too," Peata shared when asked about the past exam papers available on the MET website. What once required physical trips to school or photocopied handouts is now just a click away, accessible from home on a laptop.

Peata's revision strategy has evolved with this digital resource. "In the past I used to write summaries of my notes and do my studies on this summary," she explained. "Using past exam papers give me close hints of the type of questions that I will sit for in the exam room."

This combination of traditional study methods with new digital resources demonstrates how the MET website enhances, rather than replaces, effective learning strategies.



A Call to Continue

When asked if the Ministry should continue providing past exam papers online, Peata's response was emphatic: **"I think this was a great assistance in our revision and yes you should keep updating this exam website or more digital resources on Hama eLearning Platform (HAMA) so that we would find it easier to access to it from our laptops and from home as well. Especially for us who live far away from town."**

Her words echo the experiences of countless students who now have equitable access to exam preparation materials, regardless of their location or circumstances.

The Impact: Real Change for Real People

The MET website represents more than technological progress - it's about equity, accessibility, and empowerment. From the CEO's vision of transparent governance to Peata's practical need for exam preparation materials, the platform serves the entire education community.

As Tonga continues its digital transformation journey, the MET website stands as a testament to what's possible when innovation meets genuine understanding of community needs. It's a foundation for the future of education in Tonga -- one where every student, teacher, and parent has the information they need, when they need it.

