



## Neil McDonald

Senior Education Specialist  
Education for Change Associate  
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### Specialist areas

- Decentralization of governance and management, particularly in education;
- Planning and management of education policy implementation projects for school improvement;
- Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on education systems and school effectiveness;
- Research and preparation of preliminary technical papers for education reform projects;
- Institutional capacity building and staff development in central and local government agencies and schools
- Design and implementation of communication campaigns

### Personal details

Nationality: New Zealander

Date of Birth: April 2, 1942

### Education

1966 Master of Arts (History), Victoria University of Wellington

1963 Bachelor of Arts (History, English, Geography), Victoria University of Wellington

1966 Diploma of Teaching, Christchurch Teachers College, Christchurch

### Other professional development

Media Management for Senior Executives

Successful Strategic Planning

Maori for Beginners

Practical Project Management

### Countries of work experience

Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Canada, Georgia, Jamaica, FYR Macedonia, New Zealand, United Kingdom

### Employment history

June 1997-present

#### *Independent Education Consultant*

#### Position held and description of duties

January 2010 – December 2011: Consultant, Writing policy and implementation plans for refocusing of regional education officers and supporting the Ministry of Education implementing the plans, Government of **Jamaica**.

April 2005 – June 2007: Education Management, Strategic Planning, Decentralization and School Accountability Specialist, Education Reform Program (2003-2013) and Education Sector Development Project (2003-2007),



**Republic of Azerbaijan (WB)**

November 2005 - March 2007: Institutional Adviser, Advisory Technical Assistance On Education Regulatory Reform & Governance for Decentralization, **Cambodia** (ADB)

January 2004 – April 2004: Education Administration Specialist, Preparation of the Education Modernization Project, **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, (WB)

May 2002 – June 2002: Education Administration Specialist, Preparation of the Education Modernization Project, **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, (WB)

Jan 2001 – Dec 2001: Commissioner, Sacred Heart College, perform all the powers, functions and duties of the board of trustees of the school in order to identify causes for principal/staff dysfunctional relationships implement strategies to resolve these (**New Zealand MOE**)

March 2000 – November 2000: International Consultant for the Provision of Technical Assistance in Policy and Management to the Education System Realignment and Strengthening Program, **Republic of Georgia** (WB)

Jan 2000 – Dec 2000: Commissioner, Kimi Ora Community School, perform all the powers, functions and duties of the board of trustees of the school in order to identify causes for poor quality of education delivery and implement strategies to resolve these (**New Zealand MOE**)

Aug 1997 – Oct 1999: Change Manager, managing a private training establishment through a restructuring process in order to improve the provision of education and training courses for government beneficiaries, Salvation Army Training and Employment Programmes.

Aug 1997 – Dec 2001: various contracts resolving school issues in the local community e.g. teacher performance, viability of schools (**New Zealand MOE**)

1989 - 1997

Position held and description of duties

*Ministry of Education New Zealand*

*Acting Group Manager Implementation (1996)*

Responsible for all implementation and operational activities of the Ministry of Education and advice to Government including the Minister of Education, the CEO and MOE Board on implementation and operational activities; control of five MOE divisions, thirteen regional offices, over 500 staff and distribution of \$2 bill. In government education resources.

*Chief Adviser Schools*

Responsible for monitoring and reporting on the 'health' of the school sector to the Minister of Education and the Ministry of Education, monitoring and coordinating school sector activities within the MOE and activities of other government departments that impinge on school sector education, monitoring MOE communication activities to media to ensure medium, message and audience appropriateness. Liaising with the school sector groups in order to identify the effectiveness of Government policies on schooling and publicize Government education policies and liaise with the media on activities and issues related to the school sector.

*Project Manager*

Responsible for the implementation of national education reforms including the management of schools; school curriculum and resourcing and support for



	failing schools.
1987 - 1989	<i>Department of Education New Zealand</i> <i>Manager 'Tomorrow's Schools' Implementation Liaison Group</i>
Position held and description of duties	Management of a team of eighty Department of Education professional officers responsible for the implementation of the radical national program of school decentralization reforms.
1982 - 1987	<i>Paraparaumu College, Paraparaumu, New Zealand</i> <i>Principal</i>
Position and duties	All the duties and responsibilities of a secondary school principal in particular the development of this new 1000 student secondary school and the establishment of its credibility in the community
1965 - 1982	<i>Various school employing authorities in New Zealand, Canada and England</i>
Position held and description of duties	Teacher and lead teacher roles, several years in New Zealand low socio-economic, indigenous, rural communities
Languages	English: Mother tongue French: Fair