



25 November, 2004

## Media Statement

### Auckland research on raising education standards

Auckland researchers, schools and kindergartens will be leading five new two-year research projects that will contribute to the government's goal of raising education standards, Education Minister Trevor Mallard announced today.

"These projects continue the important work we are doing in the early childhood, school and tertiary sectors to raise education standards through quality teaching," Trevor Mallard said.

"The research projects announced today cover all aspects of teaching and learning, and allow the benefits of partnerships between education research experts and teachers to be maximised.

"Through these projects we can build on teaching and learning knowledge by enhancing the links between educational research and teaching practices so that these projects are of practical use to teachers and other educators."

The New Zealand Council of Educational Research has been contracted to manage the programme on behalf of the Ministry of Education. A team of specialists in key areas of educational research will manage the initiative and assist the researchers.

The five Auckland projects under the 2005 Teaching & Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) are:

- Associate Professor Mike Thomas, University of Auckland - *The impact of technology use on the teaching and learning of mathematics in the secondary classroom*. Associate Professor Thomas and his team will be partnering with Senior College of New Zealand, and Pakuranga College during their research.
- Dr Elizabeth Peterson, University of Auckland - *Conceptions of assessment and feedback in secondary school mathematics and English and their impact on learning and pedagogy*. Dr Peterson will be working with colleagues from the Auckland College of Education as well as principals and senior staff from Papatoetoe High School, Waitakere College, Pakuranga College, and Tangaroa College.
- Professor Stuart McNaughton, Woolf Fisher Research Centre, University of Auckland - *Enhanced teaching and learning of comprehension in years 5-8: A research: practice collaboration for Otara schools*. The project team will be using research data gathered from Wymondley Road School, East Tamaki School, Ferguson Intermediate School, Flat Bush School, Mayfield School, Rongomai School, and Yendarra School.

- Dr Judy Parr, University of Auckland - *Measuring classroom literacy practice: The development and evaluation of a classroom observation instrument for research and peer feedback*. Dr Parr and colleagues will be working in collaboration with Mangere Central School and Newmarket School.
- Maggie Haynes, School of Education, Unitec Institute of Technology - *Enhancing mathematics teaching and learning in early childhood settings*. The project team will be supported by the principals and teaching teams at Avondale, Birdwood, and Don Buck Kindergartens.

Eighteen new contracts under the TLRI were announced today, including four studies, being led by other institutions, that will also have input from Auckland researchers and schools.

A full list of the research projects in the 2004 funding round and background information is attached, and more information on the TLRI programme is available at [www.tlri.org.nz](http://www.tlri.org.nz).

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