

Hon Trevor Mallard

Minister of Education



25 November, 2004

Media Statement

Chch research, schools raise education standards

Christchurch researchers and schools are to take part in one-year research projects that will contribute to the government's goal of raising education standards, Education Minister Trevor Mallard announced today.

Dr Lindsey Conner of the Christchurch College of Education, and The South Learning Centre have been awarded one-year research contracts.

Dr Conner, along with Dr Janinka Greenwood and Peter Buyers, will be undertaking a study entitled "*Investigating responses to diversity in a secondary environment*", a study into the policies and practices at Linwood College. Patsy - Ann Street from The South Learning Centre and teachers from Waltham Primary School and Christchurch East Primary School will be studying primary students' and teachers' experiences of collaborative learning online in conjunction with researchers from Ultralab South.

"These projects continue the important work our government is doing in the early childhood, school and tertiary sectors to raise education standards through supporting 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."

Christchurch researchers will also be partners in four other research projects announced today:

- Dr Susan Lovett of the Christchurch College of Education will be assisting in a three-year Massey University study into teacher education and retention.
- Sue Molloy and Keryn Davies, also of the Christchurch College of Education, will be partnering with University of Waikato researchers on a three-year study on teaching practices and learning competencies in early years education, a study which will involve New Brighton Community Pre-school and Nursery and Parkview Primary in Parklands.
- Fiona Haynes, Dean of the Trades Innovation Institute, and Paul Wilson, Dean of the Faculty of Design and Engineering both of Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, will be working in collaboration with Waikato University on a two-year project examining how existing systems, processes

and practices influence students' and lecturers' perceptions and attitudes in science and engineering education.

- Faye Wilson-Hill from the Christchurch College of Education will work with Discovery One School and researchers from Waikato University on a project into classroom practices in environmental education.

Eighteen projects under TLRI were announced in total today.

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.

A 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.

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