

Hon Trevor Mallard
Minister of Education



25 November, 2004

Media Statement

Otago research on raising education standards

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

Otago University researchers Susan Sandretto and Jane Tilson will be undertaking a pilot study into the development of critical literacy practices by primary school teachers. The research will be done in collaboration with two local schools - Port Chalmers School and East Taieri School.

The second study, led by Otago University's Dr Tamsin Meaney, is entitled *Te Reo Tataitai - Developing rich mathematical language in Maori immersion classrooms*. The study, being done in conjunction with Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Koutu in Rotorua, aims to document and evaluate the strategies of teachers in a Maori-medium school when teaching mathematics.

Rosemarie Patterson from the Dunedin Christchurch College of Education will be working with Karitane School in Waikouaiti and Waikato University researchers on a project into classroom practices in environmental education.

The studies are three of 18 research projects under the Teaching and Learning Research Initiative.

"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.

"The 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 - in the interests of students.

"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 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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