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Media Statement

Rotorua schools contribute to new research

Rotorua Primary School and Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Koutu will both play integral roles in two new research projects that will contribute to the government's goal of raising education standards, Education Minister Trevor Mallard announced today.

Dr Margaret Carr and Sally Peters, both from the School of Education at the University of Waikato, are undertaking a three-year study involving Rotorua Primary called *Key learning competencies across place and time - Kimihia te ara totika a hei oranga mo to ao*. The research aims to investigate teaching practices designed to develop five learning competencies in early childhood and early years classrooms.

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

The projects are two of 18 under the Teaching & Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) announced today by Education Minister Trevor Mallard.

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

"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 have outcomes that 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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