



Media release

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New funding announced for TLRI

Educational researchers from Auckland will be involved in five of 12 projects in the Teaching & Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) announced today.

- Hayley Read, Principal of Richmond Road School, will be leading a research team undertaking a pilot project looking at teachers' beliefs, knowledge and practice about bilingualism and bilingual immersion education. The Richmond Road project will be undertaken in conjunction with the University of Auckland.
- Dr Trevor McDonald from Education Associates will be partnering with three secondary schools, including Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School, in a two-year project studying cross-curricula literacy teaching and learning in secondary schools. The ultimate aim is to assist students develop the strategies required to improve their literacy learning and therefore assessment outcomes.
- Thirty-two teachers at eight schools in the Manurewa Enhancement Initiative will be the focus of a study by Dr Libby Limbrick from the University of Auckland's Faculty of Education through its commercial research and consultancy company Auckland UniServices. During the one-year project teachers will investigate their own practices, using the 2003 English Exemplars, and collect evidence that can be used to modify writing instruction in order to raise student achievement in writing.
- Manukau Institute of Technology under the leadership of Dr Helen Anderson will be collaborating in research undertaken by Victoria University of Wellington during a three-year study investigating policy and strategies for the assessment of student learning outcomes in tertiary institutions.
- Staff from Auckland University of Technology and the University of Auckland will participate in another three-year study, led by Dr Kogi Naidoo of Massey University in partnership with all New Zealand universities, looking at the impact of teaching and learning enhancement initiatives (TLEIs) on first year university students.

The TLRI aims to produce real and practical outcomes for teaching and learning through collaborative research projects that will lead to improved teaching standards, better understanding of students' needs and improvements in New Zealand's education system. This is the third year of funding, and including those announced today there will be 43 separate research projects in the TLRI programme.

The projects continue important research work currently being done across the education spectrum, and the 2005 recipients cover a geographically, culturally, and socially diverse group of schools, tertiary institutions, and early childhood learning environments.

The selection panel chose projects that needed investigation, dealt with areas significant to raising educational achievement, and which will result in new knowledge that has a practical impact on teaching and learning in New Zealand.

One of the main criteria for projects was a commitment to partnerships, and the panel noted that three schools, Aranui High School in Christchurch, Richmond Road School in Auckland, and Redwood School in Tawa, were taking the leadership role in their respective research projects.

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

ENDS

A list of the research projects in the 2005 funding round and background information is attached.

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