



Dr Mere Berryman

Te Kotahitanga – A culturally responsive model for teacher professional

The aim of Te Kotahitanga is to collaborate with school leaders and teachers in order to ensure that Māori students can enjoy education success as Māori. An Effective Teaching Profile, developed from the voices of Māori students and some of their teachers, provides the direction and focus for the professional learning that now operates at all levels of Te Kotahitanga school communities. After introducing the basic tenets of Te Kotahitanga to participating teachers and school leaders, an observation tool is used to provide specific feedback on the degree to which teachers are incorporating the interactions and relationships from the Effective Teaching Profile into their everyday teaching.

This seminar will discuss Te Kotahitanga and will highlight the importance of professional development that is agentically driven (schools and teachers believe they can make a positive difference for the engagement and achievement of Māori students) and relational based (one which respects the cultural location of their students).

After more than twenty years as a classroom practitioner, then nearly fifteen years as researcher and manager of the Ministry of Education, Special Education Poutama Pounamu Education Research and Development Centre based in Tauranga, Mere now holds the position of Senior Research Fellow. This position allows her to continue to build on twenty years of research, working as part of a research whānau to develop and trial programmes aimed at supporting educators to work more effectively with Māori students and their families in a range of education settings.