

# NZEI ECE Scholarship Final Report

## Project title

Navigating changing climates: Exploring Pasifika Early Childhood teacher's participation in Leadership & Networks

## Whakatauki

Taku toa he toa rangatira – My bravery is inherited from my ancestors

## Purpose of project

The aims of the project were to explore the influences on teacher participation in leadership roles and professional networks. Attention was given to examining how a teacher's cultural capacity/literacy plays a part in their participation in leadership positions and professional networks. The project provided an opportunity for Pasifika teachers to engage in a research relevant to their own professional practice and the growing interest in leadership from Pasifika perspectives.

## Any changes to original proposal and reasons

Project title: The name of the project has changed since the application and milestone reports were submitted. The concept of the project title being in a state of evolution was intentional and made clear from the earliest stages of the project. The purpose of this was firstly in acknowledgement of the collaborative approach of the intended design and implementation of the project. Advice and guidance were sought from the executive members of Komiti Pasifika Wellington as to how the title could be phrased to suit the aspiration and direction of the branch. This was also presented at the community event. Elaboration of these discussions are included in the detailed report that will be delivered to the participants and community at a community event to be held in April 2019.

Reduced kaitiaki sessions – Four sessions were had, and the determination was made that was all the sessions needed to set a pathway for self-exploration relating to the topic

Increase amounts to compensate time given to project report writing – As this was my first time setting a budget to meet address time given I underestimated that cost relating to my time particularly how long it would take to transcribe and make sense of the data collected. Changes to the allocation of funds have been amended to compensate the increase in time required.

## Achievements aligned with the formal proposal submitted

All elements of the project proposal were met. These are detailed below.

- Community consultation
- Engagement with NZEI members and branches (Komiti Pasefika & Mana Branch)
- 2 out of 4 interview participants current financial NZEI members
- 20 respondents to survey invitations
- Critical self-enquiry engagement over the project
- Brief review of literature pertaining to Pasifika ECE teacher's involvement in leadership and networks

## Research findings

### Interviews

- Family and service to community were significant factors to all four interview participants involvement in ECE and leadership
- Interview participants fluency in their own language and cultural practices presented as significant positive influences to teaching and leadership efficacy
- Two out of four participants identified their language and culture contributing to their being involved in leadership and direct factors to being seen and identified as leaders
- Participants faith/spiritual belief featured less than anticipated

### Survey

- Survey participants also identified family together with time as an influencing factor to their involvement in leadership and networks
- Survey participants identified Career development as a significant factor to involvement in leadership
- Participants faith/spiritual belief featured less than anticipated

### Literature Review

- The need for research addressing Pasifika education identified
- Limited literature relating to Pasifika ECE practitioner research
- Pasifika educational research and literature contributes to the decolonising of dominate Western hegemony within educational discourse

### Critical Self inquiry

By engaging in critical self-exploration of my own values, beliefs and identity has supported an in-depth examination of what drives my professional practice and aspirations to serve the Pasifika community.

Journaling provided a space to consider various aspects of the project and the journey of engaging with the participants and literature. Aspects explored included ethnic and cultural identity,

practices, and belonging - Enacting fluidity and movement within oneself to 'fit' contexts. The processes involved in sharing and exploring all aspects of the project in Kaitiaki sessions contributed to the unpacking of what was impetus for engaging in the project and what inspired the aspiration to choose Pasifika practice – a shift from Titiri based practice in ECE which has been the focus of my research for the past ten years.

#### Conclusion from this aspect of the project

- Critical self-inquiry is emancipating
- Requires courage and a willingness to investigate spaces within oneself in order to illuminate unconscious practice, assumptions and untapped potential

#### Recommendations

Drawing from the above findings I assert that there is potential for increasing leadership capacity among Pasifika ECE teachers by

- Encouraging the development and maintenance of Pasifika ECE networks to support ongoing collaboration and professional learning
- NZEI to continue esteeming Pasifika focused research within membership

#### Liasion/interaction with NZEI Te Riu Roa members and/or community groups

Advice and guidance were sought from NZEI members throughout the project. An existing mentoring relationship with a long time NZEI member provided the space for questioning and support to help facilitate the design and application process.

Support for the project purpose and potential was sought from my branch executive with discussions occurring as to how the project could be integrated into the annual planning for the branch. Support to undertake the project under the Komiti Pasefika Wellington Branch banner was given.

An open invitation was sent to Komiti Pasefika Wellington and Mana branch members to attend the community consultation event held prior to the data collection phase of the project. The holding of this event was a collaboration between Komiti Pasefika Wellington and Mana branch.

NZEI members were approached and invited to be participants in the interview aspect of the project. Two out of the four participants are current financial members with the remaining two being previous members. One participant currently teaches out of Aotearoa and the remaining participant is a lapsed member.

A second community event will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 to present the final report to the project participants and the community. Once again this will be a collaboration between Komiti Pasefika Wellington and Mana branch.

### Outline of monies spent

Koha to School, Kaumatua & performers \$250 – Koha given

Kaitiaki Ora \$200 – Receipts attached

Kaitiaki Ora - \$200 – No receipt paid by koha

Interviews \$103.18 - Receipts attached New World x2 & McDonalds

Printing \$70 – Receipts attached 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> March

Survey monkey subscription \$117 – Receipt attached

Event document prep \$540

Interviews: Document prep \$540

Transcribing interview notes \$675

Carrying out interviews \$405

Data analysis and report writing \$1620

Interviews - \$100

Food and beverage for event #2 \$150

**Total spending to date – \$4,970.18**