

## About the research

### What factors contribute to Māori success in adult literacy programmes?

This research looked at Hei Manaaki: National Certificate in Tourism Māori run by Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in four sites, each with very different students and outcomes.

It included looking at how the Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Tool worked in programmes delivered in a Māori context.

The research involved interviews and discussions with programme staff and students, analysis of data and reflection on previous research.

The research was a collaborative effort between researchers at Awanuiārangi and the Ministry of Education.

### Programme sites and outcomes

	Students	Purpose	Context	Outcomes
1	Secondary school students and community (ages 17 – 70).	Study Māori tourism to gain qualifications and employment.	Classroom based, with some field experiences.	Pride in self, self manaaki, a qualification, hope for the future.
2	Secondary school teachers.	How to care for Māori student achievement and success through a Manaaki framework.	Classroom-based, with some field experiences.	Staff related better to each other and with Māori students. Students are able to build relationships with staff and learning is occurring in a reciprocal way.
3	Currently employed in Māori tourism.	Gain qualifications in the field in which they are already employed.	Field-based, on the job, and classroom.	Reinforcement of self and community skills and knowledge; self-efficacy; pride in qualifications.
4	Currently employed in hospitality positions.	Gain skills that support the hospitality context – enhancing the business.	Field-based, on-the-job, and classroom. Mainly field-based.	Build staff camaraderie, mentoring workers to understanding how their role contributes to the success of the business.

### The Assessment Tool measures a particular literacy

The Assessment Tool measures particular literacy required for work, study and everyday life in New Zealand. These kinds of literacy are necessary to participate successfully in the workforce and tertiary education and interact with government agencies and other services.

However, there is a risk that teaching these literacies for the purpose of assessment is reduced to developing technical skills divorced from the social context of the student. A sole focus on them can actually undermine the outcome of improving literacy and fail to engage the students.



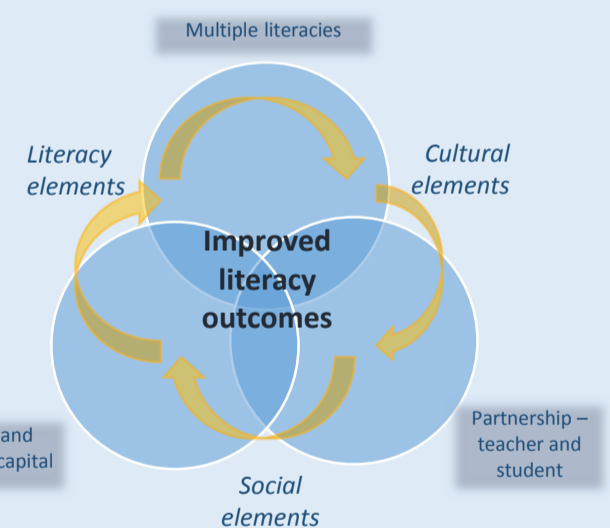
### Effective teaching acknowledges the full range of experience that students bring with them

The success of Hei Manaaki was in acknowledging the full range of experience that students bring with them, and the many ways that students already make sense of their world. These existing literacies of students provided a starting point for them to build their understanding of other literacies that are required in the workplace or further study.

### Students are partners in teaching and learning

Teachers and students worked together as partners to achieve success. Teaching and learning became a joint activity between students and teachers where meaning was constructed and agreed. As partners in teaching and learning, students and teachers contributed equally to the production of knowledge

## What we found



### Questions for teachers and organisations to consider:

#### Creating dialogues of meaning

How does your teaching allow for the multiple literacies of students to be used in learning?

#### Using social and cultural capital

How do you include the cultural experience of students in developing their literacy for the workplace and further study?

#### Students as partners in teaching and learning

How do you create conversations with your students that acknowledge their voice and reading of the world?

### New developments supporting Māori learner success

**Te Ata Hāpara** provides a new version of the reading assessment designed for Māori learners. The assessment makes use of Māori contexts and understanding in the assessment items.

**He Taunga Waka** (run through Ako Aotearoa) provides professional development for teachers who work with Māori and Pasifika learners to improve their literacy outcomes. The programme includes an annual forum, professional development workshops and organizational support

Full report is available on [www.educationcounts.govt.nz](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz)

## Taking action