

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

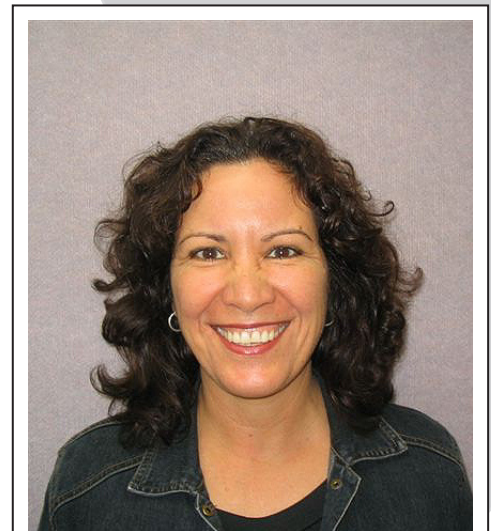
Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award 2006

The recipient of the 2006 Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award is Doctor Margie Hohepa from the University of Auckland.

This award recognises and acknowledges the contribution of a Māori educationalist who has made a significant research input in the area of Māori education and education more generally. Margie has been an outstanding member of the group of scholars and researchers who developed Māori research in education at the University of Auckland, and has influenced the development of research and teaching in Māori education at the University of Auckland and nationally. She was a part of the original group of academics who formed the Research Unit of Māori Education which later became IRI, the International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education. Margie is a national and international scholar with a considerable reputation and influence. She has published widely and in diverse areas, including educational and developmental psychology. She has contributed to national developments in assessment in Māori contexts, and the setting of national strategies and developments. For example she was a member of the New Zealand Government appointed Literacy Experts Groups which provided advice to the New Zealand Government on the direction for literacy in Aotearoa /New Zealand. Her research has informed the teaching and learning in Māori medium settings, especially in areas to do with language and literacy development. Internationally she is recognised as an expert in this field. Margie Hohepa is at the cutting edge of Kaupapa Māori educational initiatives and Kaupapa Māori research developments. Her work in the area of language development, and te reo Māori literacy and numeracy development and research, has made a major contribution to Māori education. In both her Masters and Doctoral theses Margie engaged with the development of literacy through Māori culturally determined pedagogies, and her research work has been widely utilised by educationalists in their understandings of Māori and bilingual literacy and biliteracy development.

The commissioned research work that Margie is currently engaged with, further contributes in the area of Māori literacy and again brings together whānau and kura in a process of understanding and supporting the literacy needs of tamariki Māori. Margie's work is always connected to the wider socio-political context within which Māori education is located. As a Māori woman working in the area of educational psychology, Margie's research moves across the boundaries of quantitative and qualitative research methods, and is informed by an overarching Kaupapa Māori methodological approach. There are few Māori researchers who are able to move with such clarity across the disciplinary boundaries which so often separate quantitative and qualitative approaches. Margie's doctoral thesis made a significant contribution in this area. It is a brilliant example of the integrated use of both narrative and quantitative methods to answer a research question. Margie is also a committed academic and mentor for Māori students. She provides strong supervision and support for students and is committed to the success of Māori education programmes. In her return to live in the North, Margie has also ensured that Māori students in the Northland area have access to active and quality support in their research and studies. Margie's recent involvement in the Te Pūtahitanga Mātauranga project is further indication of Margie's commitment to ensuring quality iwi partnerships in the supporting of Māori education in the North. This is a critical involvement for Māori academics and researchers, given the limited resources available to many in Northland, due to the social and political context within which many iwi find themselves. For Māori researchers the 'giving back' to our whānau, hapū and iwi comes in many forms. Margie has chosen to do that by returning to her iwi rohe, and to actively promote research based developments that will support the long-term goal of transforming education for Māori.

It is with pleasure that the New Zealand Association for Research in Education confers on Margie Hohepa its 2006 Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award.



Margie Hohepa

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