

Biography

Katarina Edmonds – Te Whānau a Apanui

Maori language proficiency assessment has been a major research interest for Katarina since she first began teaching in a Maori immersion school in 1989. In 1990 she became involved in teacher education, in the medium of Māori, at the School of Education at the University of Waikato. She established, managed and provided professional development – Whakapiki i te Reo - for teachers in Maori medium education at the Language Institute and The School of Maori and Pacific Development (SMPD) of the University of Waikato. In 1998 she was a policy analyst and curriculum facilitator in the New Zealand Ministry of Education National Office. As curriculum facilitator some of those outputs included the establishment of policy for Māori medium curricula, specifically *Nga Toi i roto i te Marautanga o Aotearoa and Tikanga a Iwi*. In her role as a policy analyst, she initiated the development of a Maori language proficiency assessment tool, which SMPD was commissioned to develop under contract research. In 2000 – 2001, SMPD contracted Katarina's services (Hākoni Limited) to manage and progress the research development of the Māori language proficiency tests—Kaiaka Reo—that were initially developed in 1999. Katarina completed her doctorate in *Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalisation* at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The dissertation determined the reliability and validity of the Year 8 Proficiency Test in Writing. She currently holds a post-doctoral fellowship at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi.