



Mere Berryman, McKenzie Award recipient 2025

The McKenzie Award panel would like to recommend Mere Berryman for the 2025 McKenzie award. The citation follows. We have read the materials that accompany her nomination and agree she is a worthy candidate. It was hard to keep this short as her referees had lots of good things to say about her! Please reply to this email with your affirmation (or not) so we as council can ratify this award (again or not if there is any reason why we shouldn't).

We propose Professor Mere Berryman, University of Waikato (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whare) as the 2025 recipient of the McKenzie award. This recognises her outstanding contributions to both NZARE as an organisation and to Aotearoa New Zealand as an outstanding researcher and educator. As you will well know, her focus on disrupting the status quo, hearing the voices of learners and their whānau, and challenging deficit thinking has been highly impactful in classrooms and schools, and for the learners themselves. Mere's work has been highly influential both across New Zealand and internationally.

A theme in the letters of support was Mere's generosity of time and spirit, giving (and I quote) "unstintingly of her time to advance educational practice for the betterment of all". As one of her advocates said, "the following adage from Princess Te Puea Herangi, ... aptly reflects Professor Berryman's dedication to her field of research. "Mahia te mahi hei painga mō te iwi" (Do the work for the benefit of the People.) (1883 – 1952)". Mere is ardent in her support and mentorship of those around her.

Mere is not only a competent and critical researcher and an accomplished scholar, she is also in demand to provide leadership and support change at a system level. Her significant system level contributions include the review of the Tomorrow's Schools educational policy, the design of the Education Review Office Evaluation Indicators and a member of the academic leadership forum for the Education council. She has provided exemplars for others to use in, for example, the Best Evidence Syntheses and in case studies reported on the Ministry of Education's website.

Mere has made substantial contributions to NZARE through her leadership on council and as Co-President and her support over many years. She has attended conferences as a presenter herself and mentored and supported others to attend NZARE conferences and events. This signifies the importance she places on NZARE as an organisation. Mere's contribution to educational research and to our community make her a very worthy recipient of the 2025 McKenzie Award.