

## **Massey University Institute of Education**

Establishment of the Massey University Institute of Education at the start of 2013 represents an exciting and bold development, in line with Massey's goal of becoming New Zealand's defining university—as the engine of the new New Zealand.

The new New Zealand will be one in which innovation will drive economic growth, in which the creative sector will generate the new industrial revolution, in which new businesses will emerge from ideas more than things, in which an educated society will underpin both prosperity and social wellbeing and cohesion, and in which working together and connecting across institutional boundaries and real and meaningful partnerships will be fundamental to the way in which universities operate. Massey University, of all New Zealand's universities, is poised to make a unique contribution to the future of the new New Zealand, and to the economic, social and cultural outcomes for New Zealand.

The new New Zealand will need to be strongly underpinned by a well educated population—a population that is better educated than presently is the case. Improvements in the overall quality of education in New Zealand will require significant changes in the education teachers and allied professionals receive. By focussing on research-based initial and ongoing teacher education and professional practice at the graduate and post-graduate levels, together with high quality advanced professional learning and development programmes, Education at Massey can provide the foundations for a qualitatively superior education for the new New Zealand.

Establishment of the Institute of Education is designed to create an environment for educational research and postgraduate education that is unmatched in New Zealand and equal to the leading university education institutions in the world. This environment will be defined by the commitment of our staff and students, and our research platforms that contribute to issues of national and international significance.

The Institute will build on programmes and qualifications in Education and Professional Education from diploma to doctoral level. The mission of the Institute of Education will be to provide quality education designed to promote excellence in research, and in teacher education and associated professional areas.

Currently, the College of Education offers a comprehensive range of innovative, research-based qualifications and professional development programmes that enhance the skills and knowledge of an up-to-date educator.

The range of programmes offered, and the research and professional development activities of staff, already distinguish the College of Education at Massey University from other education colleges in New Zealand.

Specifically, the following major qualities characterise the distinctive nature of the College and will form the foundation for the new Institute of Education:

- the most comprehensive research-based post-graduate programmes of any New Zealand education college
- the largest percentage of doctorally qualified academic staff of any education college in New Zealand
- the largest internationally recognized research quantum in New Zealand in children's literacy learning
- the largest regionally recognized research quantum in New Zealand in mathematics education
- the largest nationally recognized research quantum in New Zealand in inclusive education and adult education
- the only university Maori language immersion initial teacher education degree programme (Te Aho Tatairangi);
- the only four-year entry-level speech-language therapy programme that is transdisciplinary in form and focused on addressing the needs of a biculturally and multiculturally diverse population
- the only Master of Literacy Education degree programme
- the only Masters programme that combines TESOL with educational leadership (M TESOL Leadership)
- the only college of education, through its MUSAC business, to develop and market leading-edge software for 10 key school administration tasks (e.g. timetabling, assessment, absences, library, assets, finances)

## **Research**

Massey University is a research-led university with a well-deserved national and international reputation for the quality of its research.

Research plays an important part in the life of the College of Education and will increase its importance in the new Institute of Education. Academic staff undertake a wide range of research activities, including publications in peer-reviewed books and journals, conference presentations and contract research for external agencies. Many staff have international reputations for the quality of their research. Postgraduate research students engage in masters and doctoral theses, receiving high quality supervision and research training. Teaching at all levels is research-based to place students at the 'cutting edge' in their learning.

Research activity and topics are diverse, with projects focussed on significant issues relevant to education and allied disciplines. Academic staff with shared research interests work together to investigate topics of particular concern. Postgraduate research students are expected to select topics which align with the research interests of staff. Two research centres provide for a coalescence of researchers to share ideas and to work collaboratively: the Centre for Research in Mathematics Education and the Centre for Research in Inclusive Education. A number of staff contribute to the 'critic and conscience of society' role of the University. This role is to be expanded in the Institute of Education with the proposed establishment of the Centre for Critical Studies in Educational Policy.