



# Literacy and Employment Wanganui

Early origins: Wanganui District Library interest in researching literacy plus Massey Dept of C&J interest in studying access to information & knowledge gaps

2003: FRST call for bids in employment. Outcome is FRST-funded research into literacy and employment in Wanganui and Districts.





**Massey University**

# This research programme must:

- **Comprise international quality research of high standing**
- **Meet real needs in the community**
- **Link closely to national issues of literacy and employment and model positive national outcomes.**

Te Kūnenga  
ki Pūrehuroa





**Massey University**

**This is a fairly tall order!**

**But fortunately we have**

- **excellent community partnership**
- **a research team with much relevant experience.**

Te Kunenga  
ki Pūrehuroa



# A national perspective on literacy

In addition, there are strong indications that nationally, interested parties are now ready for a new and unified approach to the area. This includes a better agreement on what literacy is, on the needs for and barriers to high literacy, and acceptance of what is needed to ensure that there is good co-ordination at policy and implementation levels.

# The basic aims of the research are to:

- create deep insights into low attainment of adult literacy and how that phenomenon is to be understood
- explore the relationship between low attainment of adult literacy and possibilities for enterprise growth and development
- develop solutions for participants, practitioners and policy-makers to maximise the benefits of this country's growing investment in adult literacy.

# Research objective one will:

- describe the issues surrounding literacy and employment
- clarify the extent to which growth in employment depends on adult literacy, numeracy and analytical thinking skills (ATS).

The main outcome of this objective is to describe the state of adult literacy in the Wanganui region and explore its relationship to the rest of New Zealand.

## Research objective two will:

**Identify individual, group and regional social and economic barriers to better target adult literacy programmes and help policy makers identify real needs. Employment-disadvantaged adults will be enabled to overcome barriers and engage more readily with literacy programmes and resources.**

**A second outcome will be greater co-ordination of adult literacy activities, in Wanganui and Districts then nationwide.**

**Determination of barriers to literacy and their impact on social outcomes will permit development of well-targeted initiatives.**

## Research objective three will:

track learners' progress through adult literacy programmes and determine their consequent experiences in the labour market. The research studies participants' experiences over an extended time scale unattempted by most other studies.

The main outcome of this objective is to identify factors leading to both successful and unsuccessful completion of adult literacy programmes as well as showing how successful these programmes are in helping individuals find sustainable employment.

## Research objective four will:

describe and explain adult learning processes in such a way that individual learning programmes can be developed to maximise people's learning capabilities. The main outcome for this objective is the development of individual learning plans.

The tangible outcome is detailed evaluations of individual adult learning programmes and the learning processes in which adult literacy participants and practitioners engage.