

# Researchers in Communication and Journalism

- Who is doing what?
- What skills are available?
- What skills are being developed?

# Literacy and Employment in Wanganui

## The work of the Turitea research team

- Objectives of the Wanganui Research Project
  1. To establish adult literacy needs of both employed and unemployed in Wanganui and Districts region.
  2. To identify the social, attitudinal and economic barriers to adult literacy, numeracy and analytical thinking skills of employed and unemployed in Wanganui and Districts.
  3. To evaluate how effectively adult literacy programmes secure employment outcomes.
  4. To examine adult literacy learning processes and their relationship to employment.

# Research in a Community context: learning roles, sharing objectives, creating processes

- Achieving positive, tangible and practical outcomes for the Wanganui community, with a well-researched plan of action for medium-long term 2005-2015 to address identified issues relating to literacy
  - Establishing a database of meaningful, relevant information relating to the links between literacy and employment in Wanganui and identify links to other social issues e.g. crime, health, and housing; and providing benchmarks to measure future progress
  - Developing collaboration between agencies within the Wanganui region, to strengthen the community and social infrastructure for future work and projects
  - Building the research capacity within Wanganui.
- Challenges of community university research partnerships:
    - Roles: is it partnership? Who has access to information? Who can act as researchers if they are also the researched?
    - The negotiation of objectives. Who audits the process to ensure all objectives are being met?
    - Channels for communication in structure and process e.g.
      - Between Massey and research partners
      - Between subcontractors
      - Constructing research instruments
      - Ownership of data
      - Purpose of reports

# Theoretical Overview

- Challenges traditional research roles and the assumptions of authority and ownership in the research relationship –
  - Participatory relationship
  - Self reflective practice
  - Awareness of researcher as subject .
- The research model is a most significant piece of research in itself, reflecting challenges to traditional discursive boundaries, challenges to communication, and challenges to identities. We are in the murky ground of postmodern research – everything is contestible, nothing has an answer.
- The definition of community itself is an active site of contested authority rather than a geographic location.
- The research on literacy mirrors the issues that literacy research itself confronts – Whose literacy? Whose information? For what purpose? Who is measuring what and so what realities are being constituted as a result?

# Who is doing what?

- Annotated Bibliography

- <http://literacy.massey.ac.nz>

- Key Points

- Models of understanding literacy – cognitive, sociocultural, integrated
  - Context for literacy
  - Purpose of research papers

# Progress To Date

- **Subcontracts**
  - **Ethics Approval**
  - **Sampling Frame**
    - Participants and Non-Participants
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# Community Phone Survey

**Aim:** To collect general community members' perspectives on employment issues in the Wanganui and Districts Area

**Sample and Method:** 400 people surveyed by telephone

# Provider Survey

**Aim:** To identify and describe all known literacy provider agencies in the Wanganui and Districts Area

**Phase 1:** To collect information on each provider

**Phase 2:** To interview each provider on perspectives of adult literacy provision

# In-Depth Interviews

**Aim:** To examine adult literacy participants and non-participants perspectives on literacy and employment

**Method:** Interviews that delve into socio-economic, schooling, learning, employment, motivational and power dynamics factors

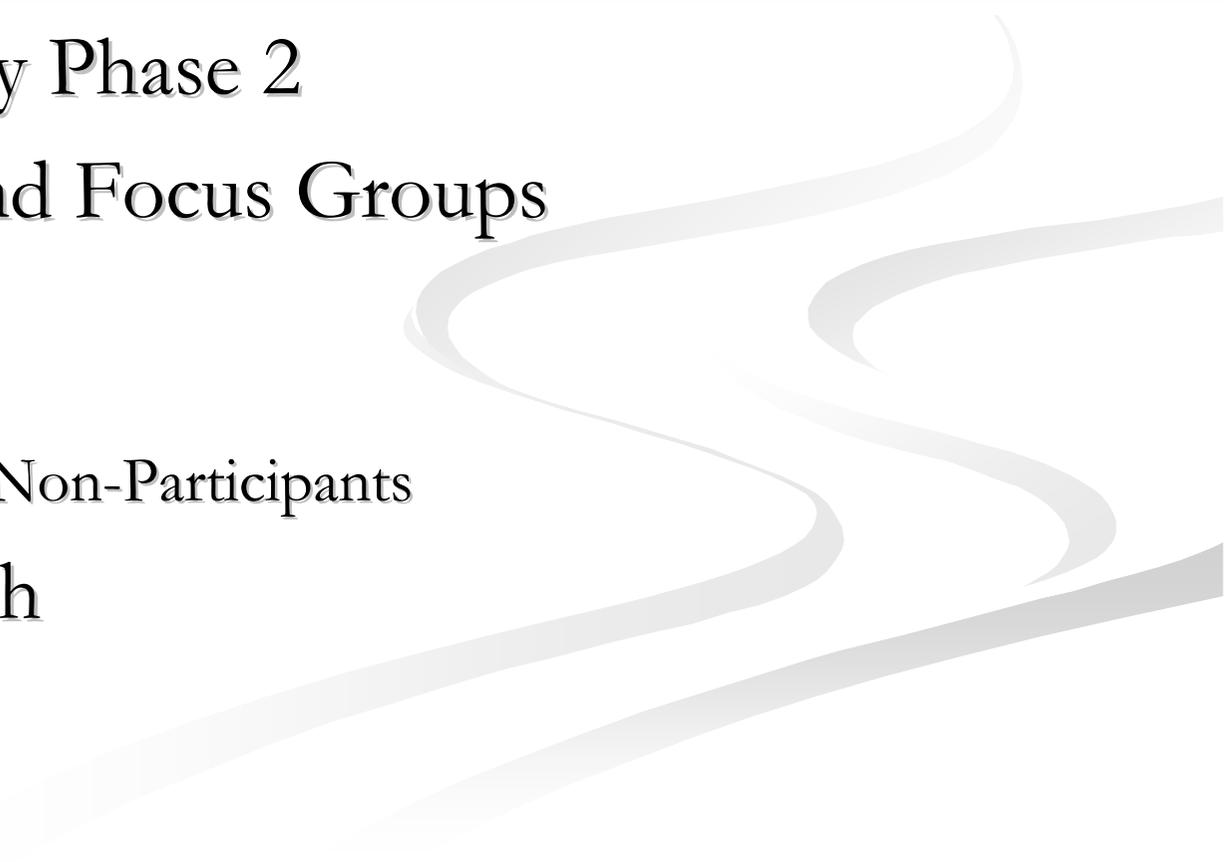
# Case Studies

- To begin in early 2005
- Discussions have taken place between Literacy Aotearoa (Wanganui) and Enhanced Task Force Green
- Literacy Aotearoa (Wanganui) will be designing their own methodology

# Researcher Perceptions & Development

- **Nga Waka E Rua:** Means by which to capture the differing perceptions of relationships within the Project Team
- **Researcher Development Record:** Means of recording changes in an organizations' research capacity over time

# What happens next?

- In-Depth Interviews
  - Provider Survey Phase 2
  - Case Studies and Focus Groups
    - Providers
    - Employers
    - Participants/Non-Participants
  - Action Research
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