

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Quantitative Group Research Award 2007

The recipients of the 2007 Quantitative Group Research Award is: Comparative Education Research Unit, Research Division, Ministry of Education

The Comparative Education Research Unit is located within the Ministry of Education's Research Division. This unit is responsible for carrying out a significant programme of quantitative educational research within Aotearoa New Zealand. The 2007 NZARE Quantitative Group Award specifically recognises the implementation, analysis and reporting of New Zealand's participation in five international achievement studies that span the period 2005 to 2008. This extensive research programme is undertaken by a committed and hard-working team: **Robyn Caygill; Megan Chamberlain; Kate Lang; Elliot Lawes; Steve May; Paul Satherley; and Maree Telford.**

The scope, scale and nature of this programme of international assessment are broad. In other countries these studies are implemented by academic institutions or ministries and often by teams far exceeding the numbers in the Comparative Education Research Unit. The New Zealand programme covers a range of domains, including reading, mathematics, science, civics and citizenship education and problem solving, as well as student engagement, attitudes and the contexts in which learning occurs – at home, in the community, in schools and, where applicable, in training and employment. Projects within the programme also focus on different levels of education and age groups, from primary through to adult.

This group of researchers, both individually and collectively, brings a very high level of competence to this programme. This ensures that all aspects of the work are well executed; that the data for use nationally and for international comparisons is robust; and that they can be used with confidence by the sector. Pooling their knowledge and skills is critical for each project to meet both New Zealand and international technical standards.

These researchers serve variously as coach, mentor and expert in various fora. Their quantitative expertise and the quality of their work are well regarded by their international peers and agencies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). For example, **Megan** and **Steve** have been invited to serve on international technical advisory panels.

As well as a high level of quantitative expertise this group also bring to this programme strong working knowledge of key aspects of education, such as curriculum and assessment frameworks. **Steve, Robyn, Paul, Megan, Maree, Kate** and **Elliot** have established extensive networks with other researchers internationally and locally; with practitioners and their representatives; and with policy makers.

This group is passionate about their work. It embodies the spirit of this award in the way that it builds capacity and capability in qualitative methodologies in educational research. These are talented researchers who are united in their desire to achieve excellent and to make a difference for all learners in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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