



McKenzie Award 2013

Russell Bishop

Professor Russell Bishop (Tainui and Ngāti Pukeko) has made substantial contributions to educational research in both national and international settings. Many of his contributions are grounded in the field of kaupapa Māori research; the methodology by which he undertook both his Masters and doctoral study.

From this work Russell began an impressive list of publications including his first two books, *Collaborative research stories: Whakawhanaungatanga* and *Culture Counts: Changing Power Relationships in Classrooms*. On the basis of this work Russell was awarded Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti, the NZARE award for excellence in Māori Research in 2003.

The writing of *Culture Counts* provided Russell with a forum to further explore what he had learned from kaupapa Māori research settings and apply these understandings into education settings. These principles are seen in *Pathologising Practices: The impact of deficit thinking on education*, the third book that Russell contributed to. In some regards this may be seen as the beginnings of one of Russell's most important contributions to research as it signals the beginnings of Te Kotahitanga. Russell has subsequently spent much of the last decade implementing and extending these theories in a number of New Zealand secondary schools.

As the Director of Te Kotahitanga, Russell has worked to improve educational outcomes for Māori students in New Zealand secondary schools thereby reducing the educational disparities that Māori people and the broader nation have struggled with for decades. From this project a further three books, *Culture Speaks*; *Scaling Up Education Reform: Addressing the Politics of Disparity*; and *Freeing Ourselves* have emerged with another one pending. During this time Russell was also awarded the Paolo Freire Award for Social Justice in Education from Chapman University in Orange County, California.

Russell continues to argue for a relational and cultural, dialogic learning response if we are to ensure that more Indigenous and minoritised peoples have legitimate representation and benefits from education. Russell has taken these understandings into the development of a research centre that will provide a focus for a group of national and international scholars to continue working to improve the educational experiences of marginalised students. This centre will allow for the development of further iterative, theory and evidence-based education research and development reform initiatives, so as to continue making a significant contribution to the advancement of Indigenous and minoritised peoples.

Russell Bishop is a very worthy recipient of the 2013 NZARE McKenzie award.