



On the edge: Shifting teachers' paradigms for the future

Funding year:

2013

Duration:

2 years

Organisation:

Auckland University of
Technology (previously
NZCER and Waikato
University)

Sector:

School sector

Project start date: January 2013

Project end date: March 2015

Principal investigator(s):

Dr. Jane Gilbert

Research team members:

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Research partners:

Wellington East Girls' College, Hauraki Plains College, Mercury Bay Area School

Project Description

This project is an action research project designed to explore the contexts and conditions needed for New Zealand teachers to experience the kind of on-the-job, transformational learning they need if they are to meet the needs of 21st century learners. Its focus is teachers' thinking. The researchers will study how a group of teachers think, and how this thinking changes as they participate in a university course and a transformational learning workshop.

Aims

The project aims to investigate the following questions:

1. Are the teacher participants able to use the resources and support provided in the PLD programme to transform the way they think?
2. Are some teachers more 'ready' than others to do this (and if so, what are the characteristics of these teachers?)
3. Are some elements of the PLD programme more helpful or necessary than others, or are they all necessary?

Why is this research important?

The last 15 years or so have seen a paradigm shift in international thinking about education. To thrive in today's world, people need new kinds of knowledge and skills. There is a large literature on how schools need to change if they are to provide this, and New Zealand's national curriculum is designed to support this change. While there is some work on how to support students' learning in the new context, there is as yet little knowledge of how best to support the significant changes in teacher thinking that are required for our schools to meet our future needs.

Data

To answer our questions we plan to collect two kinds of data:

1. Data on the participant teachers' thinking - how they think, any changes in this as the project progresses, and any links between their ways of thinking and their 'availability' for transformational learning
2. Data on the participant teachers' perceptions and/or reported experiences of the different elements of the PLD programme, the usefulness of these elements, and any changes in their thinking.

Analysis

We plan to analyse the data we collect in a three-stage process. In the first stage, each of the four researchers will put together a preliminary analysis of the practitioner-generated material they were involved in collecting (e.g. workshop

Outputs



(http://www.tlri.org.nz/sites/default/files/projects/TLRI%20_%20Gilbert%20_%20Summary.pdf) Gilbert, J., & Bull, A. 2015. On the Edge: Shifting teachers' paradigm for the future (http://www.tlri.org.nz/sites/default/files/projects/TLRI%20_%20Gilbert%20_%20Summary.pdf) - PDF - 264.79 KB