

Dr A G (Sandy) Stewart
26 Hone Heke
Kerikeri
Northland 0470 . New Zealand.
Phones: 09 407 9228; 025 270 8572

Teaching Teachers: The methodology and mythodology.

Much research has been completed and solutions proposed as to why so many Māori students in New Zealand continue to fail in high school. This paper details the results of a four-year intervention study of Māori language teachers, their students and associated parent communities in the Northland region of New Zealand. The researcher was particularly interested to study the type and quality of interaction between the participants and to learn how such interaction affected the progress of these Māori pupils in their high schools. In the main, both teachers and parents frequently made mistaken assumptions (a mythology) about each other for which the students took the opportunity to escape any notions of success in school. The intervention supplied a methodology that brought teachers and parents together. The conclusion is that both home and school beliefs and practices are the biggest determinant of success or failure for our pupils. The various tripartite models between teachers, parents and pupils are discussed.