

Cultural capability and its impact on learning outcomes

Introduction

Cultural capability is a key focus of the Manako programme. This briefing paper examines how cultural capability training influences learner success and engagement, using the PIAAC report to highlight disparities and successes.

The Manako programme is provided by Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence (NCTTE), and was formerly known as the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability (ALNACC) programme. The Manako programme continues our partnership with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to enhance educational capability across Aotearoa New Zealand. Embracing our roots and expertise in literacy, numeracy, and both Māori and Pacific cultural capability, the Manako programme expands our commitment to delivering inclusive and effective education, informed by the values and needs of all New Zealanders.

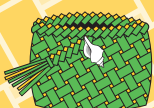
PIAAC is the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, and an initiative of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD is an international, intergovernmental organisation with 38 Member countries, whose message is “Better policies for better lives”.

Current initiatives

The Manako programme's cultural capability initiatives include culturally responsive teaching practices, support for indigenous languages, Māori and Pacific professional development workshops and courses, the Community of Phenomenal Practice (CoPP), Talanoa Numeracy, and Tapatoru.

Impact on learning outcomes

The PIAAC report indicates that culturally responsive education can significantly improve learning outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners. However, disparities still exist, suggesting a need for further enhancement of these initiatives.



Recommendations for tertiary education and policy makers

» Strengthen community engagement:

- » Foster stronger partnerships with Māori and Pacific communities to ensure programmes are culturally relevant.

» Professional development:

- » Provide ongoing cultural capability training for educators and organisations.

» Inclusive curriculum:

- » Develop curricula that reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of learners.

Conclusion

Enhancing cultural capability in tertiary education can lead to better learning outcomes and higher engagement. By building on current initiatives and addressing existing disparities, the Manako programme can promote and support a more inclusive and effective education system.

