

# Professional Learning and Development (PLD) Public Schedule 2025



## Online Professional Learning and Development

Supporting your drive for good teaching practice  
and greater success for learners

"I felt inspired  
and informed by  
the (course)  
content"  
– 2024 PLD  
Participant



[www.ako.ac.nz/upcomingpld](http://www.ako.ac.nz/upcomingpld)

## High quality, cost effective PLD for 2025

Since 2012, Ako Aotearoa has been extremely proud to support tertiary and vocational educators, trainers and kaimahi (staff) in growing their teaching and learning capability through our successful range of workshops and courses.

In 2025, prices for our workshops and courses across our PLD programme range between \$50 to \$150 + GST per person with special rates for selected offerings.

We're excited to bring you more opportunities to drive equitable and successful outcomes for your ākonga with new additions to our courses and workshops schedule, delivered by expert facilitators.

## Tailored PLD with staff groups (online, in-person, or blended delivery)

While our online delivery continues to be popular with staff from all areas of the sector, demand has increased for face-to-face events.

Not only are we well equipped to bring our PLD to your space, but we acknowledge that greater impact and benefits for organisations and individuals can be achieved if delivered in-person with larger groups of staff. This may include tailoring content to align with your organisation's capability development priorities.

Visit [ako.ac.nz/inhousepld](https://ako.ac.nz/inhousepld) to browse our full list of professional development topics or contact us to discuss your needs in more detail.

## Benefits of our PLD

**Identified needs:** We partner with experts to identify learning and development needs, and then create programmes to suit.

**Manageable schedules:** We schedule times to suit, and sessions are short to fit around busy work lives.

**Accessible delivery:** We deliver online or in-person to suit organisational needs.

**Support diversity:** Our workshops and courses support cultural diversity and capability building.

**Build impact:** We encourage participation across many organisations to enable the sharing of ideas and approaches that are known to work from our PLD.

**Good value:** We provide very good value with our affordable fees, and payment options.

**Digital badges:** We reward your new skills and knowledge with 'digital badges' or credentials. More at [ako.ac.nz/digital-badges](https://ako.ac.nz/digital-badges)

**Giving back:** Our event and workshop ticketing service allocates its proceeds to educational projects in Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

## What our participants say

We are heartened by the strong support from our PLD participants, and we're pleased that they continue to see the value of our offerings in their capability development.

Read below to find out what people have been saying about our PLD.

### Feedback from our participants:

- "The course gave me a greater understanding of some of the struggles our students face on a daily basis and now I feel more equipped to address these injustices."
- "The content of this course was great – made better by a good presenter who knew the subject material and delivered it in an interactive and professional manner."
- "I enjoyed all three workshops that were all easy to follow and a pleasure to view."
- "(The course) was beautifully balanced in terms of instruction and interaction."

## Contact us



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Register now at [www.ako.ac.nz/upcomingpld](https://www.ako.ac.nz/upcomingpld)



Workshop/Course title	Facilitator	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Supporting Pacific Learner Success</b>													
<b>Lalaga le fala Pasefika   Weaving cultural responsiveness to Pacific learners</b> Gain greater understanding of Pacific perspectives and explore a research-informed tool designed to assist you to engage more meaningfully with your Pacific learners.	Pauline Luafutu-Simpson, Ashalya Noa & Jo Togiaso 1.00am-12.00pm						3, 10, 17						
<b>Pacific leadership principles   For the month of May, learn practical skills and strategies that can enhance your leadership skills and support learners and their communities.</b>													
<b>Pacific leadership principles   Serving to serve: The heart of tautua</b> This workshop explores the cultural principle of 'tautua' (service), a cornerstone of Pacific identity and leadership. Participants will explore how service is deeply ingrained as a sacred act of reciprocity and respect.	Pale Sauni & Saylene Ulberg 12.10pm-1.00pm					6							
<b>Pacific leadership principles   Serving to lead: Leadership through service</b> Drawing on Pacific traditions, participants will learn how to embody the principles of 'tautua' (service) in their leadership practice, prioritising the needs of communities and teams. This workshop invites participants to shift from authority-based models to relational, service-centred leadership inspired by Pacific cultural values.	Pale Sauni & Saylene Ulberg 12.10pm-1.00pm					13							
<b>Pacific leadership principles   Leading to serve: Oriented leadership</b> This workshop invites leaders to reflect on their roles as stewards of their communities, emphasising cultural focus to lead with service at the heart. The workshop prepares participants to sustain leadership practices that honour cultural values while addressing the needs of diverse communities.	Pale Sauni & Saylene Ulberg 12.10pm-1.00pm					20							





Manako (Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability)	Facilitator	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Numeracy** | For the month of October, these workshops will address topical Numeracy issues faced by educators and provide guided strategies to support your learners' development.

<p><b>Numeracy   Introduction to dyscalculia</b> This workshop explores adult dyscalculia and the strategies educators can use to support learners. It links to a range of resources educators can use to support dyscalculic adults.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm										8		
<p><b>Numeracy   Identifying the numeracy in your course</b> This workshop provides a method any educator can use to identify the numeracy demands of their courses and how to prioritise these. This is a great skill and can be applied to any environment or context.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm										15		
<p><b>Numeracy   Fractions, decimals and percentages</b> This workshop introduces new research, strategies and key concepts for teaching and understanding fractions, decimals and percentages.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm										22		
<p><b>Numeracy   Talanoa Numeracy</b> Join us to explore how Talanoa Numeracy can help educators engage learners in meaningful discussion around numeracy, in a way that leads to enhanced engagement and learning. Talanoa Numeracy draws on the deep traditions of the Pacific Islands, specifically the concept of talanoa to support numeracy instruction.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm										29		

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**Language and Literacy** | For the month of July, these workshops will provide practical skills, strategies, and knowledge to teach and embed language and literacy in your practice.

<p><b>Making meaning   Activating background knowledge</b> This workshop focuses on one key reading comprehension strategy, 'Activating background knowledge', and how we can support learners to connect their background knowledge, interests and experience with the new learning. No prior knowledge is required.</p>	Dr Janet McHardy & Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							9					
<p><b>Structured literacy: Not just for children</b> This workshop offers an exploration of the key components of literacy teaching and how these can be integrated to ensure learners can build a solid foundation for literacy success. No prior knowledge is required.</p>	Dr Janet McHardy & Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							16					
<p><b>Creating the 'write' environment</b> This workshop is designed to equip educators with a good understanding of the writing process and some key aspects of writing instruction, which will foster writing success for learners. No prior knowledge is required.</p>	Dr Janet McHardy & Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							23					
<p><b>Literacy   The LNAAT reading assessment</b> This workshop explores the Literacy and Numeracy for Adults Assessment Tool (LNAAT) in the context of supporting learners' reading skills. Specifically, it covers how to interpret a learner's assessment results, and then know what to do to support the learner, and where to find resources. No prior knowledge is required.</p>	Dr Janet McHardy & Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							30					

**Language, Literacy and Numeracy Development** | For the month of June, these workshops will provide practical skills and strategies for identifying priority learning areas, using assessment results, and designing targeted instruction.

<p><b>Numeracy in the workplace</b> This workshop presents a research-informed process for planning and delivering numeracy in a workplace context. It draws on the Learning Progressions for Adult Numeracy, assessment, and Workplace LLN needs analysis.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							9					
<p><b>Workplace LLN   The LNAAT assessments</b> Assessment is the foundation of effective instructional practice. It informs both the educator and learner of the strengths the learner has, where they need support, how to plan for learning, and what activities will be most effective. This workshop covers how to read and interpret the LNAAT reports, how to design effective plans, target specific needs, and select suitable activities.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							16					
<p><b>Workplace LLN   Reading and writing in the workplace</b> This workshop answers the question: 'How do I support learners to read and write in the workplace?' It presents a range of workplace-oriented strategies that can be applied to almost any workplace training programme.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							23					
<p><b>Workplace LLN   Needs analysis</b> Conducting a Workplace Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) needs analysis is the cornerstone of an effective Workplace LLN programme. In this workshop we will discuss a methodology for conducting a Workplace LLN needs analysis and developing a plan.</p>	Dr Damon Whitten 12.10pm-1.00pm							30					



Workshop/Course title	Facilitator	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Supporting Māori Learner Success** | For the month of September, these workshops will explore ways of embedding and applying te reo Māori and Māori values into your teaching practice.

<p><b>Embedding tatari (wait time) in your practice</b>            'Tatari' is a traditional Māori concept and conversational skill meaning 'to wait' that also carries cultural protocols. Some of these cultural protocols will be shared during the workshop in real-time, small group situation.</p>	Charmaine Tukua & Dr Mei Winitana 12.10pm-1.00pm									4			
<p><b>Embedding wānanga (considered and respectful discussion) in your practice</b>            'Wānanga' as a traditional Māori value and practice can mean a 'considered and respectful' form of discussion.</p>	Charmaine Tukua & Dr Mei Winitana 12.10pm-1.00pm									11			
<p><b>Embedding te reo Māori (the Maori language) in your practice</b>            In this workshop we will discuss some of the barriers that can exist and some practical strategies to incorporate te reo Māori in your practice.</p>	Charmaine Tukua & Dr Mei Winitana 12.10pm-1.00pm									18			
<p><b>Embedding wairuatanga (spirituality) in your practice</b>            'Wairuatanga' (spirituality) is a traditional Māori value and practice that has evolved to include Christian forms of beliefs and practices. In this workshop, we will examine some of these to consider for use in our practice.</p>	Charmaine Tukua & Dr Mei Winitana 12.10pm-1.00pm									25			

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<b>Technology and Online Learning</b>													
<b>Engaging learners online   Teaching through technology</b> Explore and assess technology and resources that support enhanced teaching, learning and overall engagement.	James Oldfield 5.00–6.00pm		13, 20, 27				5, 12, 19						
<b>Digital literacy  </b> During the month of November, learn practical skills to improve your cyber-security and build safer online environments for both you and your learners.													
<b>Digital literacy   The importance of cyber security in education</b> This workshop introduces educators to the growing importance of cyber security within the education sector. You'll explore the current cyber threat landscape, including common attacks like phishing, ransomware, malware and data breaches, which are becoming more prevalent in tertiary organisations.	Michael Grawe 12.10pm–1.00pm											4	
<b>Digital literacy   Strengthening passwords and managing authentication</b> In this workshop you'll learn how to create and manage strong, unique passwords for all your accounts. You will explore password management tools and be introduced to Two-Factor / Multi-Factor Authentication (2FA/MFA) and Single Sign-On (SSO).	Michael Grawe 12.10pm–1.00pm											11	
<b>Digital literacy   Phishing and social engineering threats</b> This workshop will help you identify and avoid phishing attempts, including emails that attempt to steal sensitive information. Participants will review real-world examples of phishing emails and explore practical strategies for verifying the authenticity of emails and links.	Michael Grawe 12.10pm–1.00pm											18	
<b>Digital literacy   Data privacy, device security, and incident response</b> In this workshop you will be introduced to the best practices for protecting sensitive learner data and securing their devices against cyber threats. You'll explore how to safely store and share sensitive information using encryption and cloud services, and how to secure your devices through strong passwords, encryption, software updates and the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).	Michael Grawe 12.10pm–1.00pm											25	
<b>Neurodiversity  </b> For the month of August, learn practical skills and strategies to help you better support neurodivergent learners.													
<b>Autism</b>	Rachel Wiltshire 12.10–1.00pm								5				
<b>ADHD</b>	Tracey Rountree 12.10pm–1.00 pm								20				
<b>Dyslexia</b>	Sarah Sharpe 12.10pm–1.00 pm								26				
<b>Dyspraxia</b>	Jacqui Scott 12.10–1.00pm								12				

## Our facilitators

Our high-quality and evidence-based workshops are run by experts in their fields, including:

**Dr Althea Gamble Blakey (Alfie)** has a passion for helping people work well together. Alfie researches transgender healthcare issues and owns a small business offering workplace bullying intervention and support services.

**Ashalyna Noa** is a New Zealand-born Samoan currently working as Kaiārahi Pasifika with the UC Pacific Development Team and studying towards a PhD at the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies.

**Catherine Delahunty** is a writer, grassroots activist, and teacher of Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshops since 1988. While in Parliament she was spokesperson on education with a focus on adult education and Te Tiriti issues.

**Charmaine Tukua** has been a kaiwhakarite/pouako at Ara | Te Pūkenga for 20+ years. She has experience in Kaupapa Māori and adult education sectors as a pouako, curriculum developer, programme reviewer, researcher, and workshop facilitator.

**Chrissie Butler** is a UDL and inclusive design and practice specialist, passionate about the value inclusive design can bring to education and the workplace.

**Christine Herzog** has facilitated more than a thousand Treaty and related workshops for central and local government, large institutions, community groups, and the general public.

**Dr Damon Whitten** is a professional development specialist focusing on adult literacy and numeracy. He connects research to real-world contexts to develop effective teaching and learning approaches.

**Daniel Tawhai** is of Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Uepohatu descent. His masterate study examined secondary school HPE teachers, drawing upon Te Tiriti o Waitangi. He has previously guest-lectured and tutored at Massey University.

**Darrin Bull** is the chair of ADHD New Zealand. He advocates for better support for the ADHD community, as well as improving understanding and removing stigma.

**Graeme Smith's** work includes delivering professional development and training, as well as providing consulting and advisory work. His expertise includes literacy, numeracy, cultural capability, and the Tapatoru framework.

**Jacqui Scott** is the CEO and National Fieldworker of the Dyspraxia Support Group of NZ Inc. She is passionate and knowledgeable about Developmental Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder.

**James Oldfield** is the Digital Learning Manager at Unitec Institute of Technology. James provides leadership and strategic direction to Unitec in matters relating to digital learning and teaching.

**Dr Janet McHardy** has extensive experience teaching, mentoring, and advising in adult literacy and numeracy, and vocational education. Her expertise includes reading skills with a focus on research-informed practice.

**Jo Togiasso** is a Samoan Southlander from Invercargill and has a background in ECE and Tertiary teaching, currently studying towards a PhD in Education.

**Dr Lesley Petersen** has over 30 years' experience in training and development in mentoring and evaluation research. She developed a mentoring model to support professional development and enhance leadership capabilities.

**Dr Mei Winitana** is Kaiwhakahaere Māori Cultural Capability at Ako Aotearoa. As an experienced researcher, resource developer and workshop facilitator, she works in several collaborative projects focusing on literacy, numeracy, and cultural capability.

**Michael Few** is a Learning Advisor with a focus on research, development, and implementation of change initiatives. His expertise includes culturally responsive pedagogy, assessment, and application of technology.

**Michael Grawe** is a Professional Learning and Development Consultant at Ako Aotearoa and the Professional Learning Manager for Pathways Awarua.

**Mike Styles** has worked in the areas of adult literacy, numeracy, and dyslexia for over 20 years. He specialises in supporting adults with dyslexia and advising organisations in matters of neurodiversity.

**Pale Sauni** is a senior Samoan educator who has delivered financial wellbeing workshops for over 15 years. He has insights on engaging with Pacific learning communities through understanding how money works.

**Pauline Luafutu-Simpson** is a Samoan Kiwi involved with the Christchurch Pasifika community over several years and has an enduring interest and passion in Pasifika education.

**Rachel Wiltshire** is an Advisor at Altogether Autism. She found out she was autistic when she was 12 and has been passionate about supporting other autistic people ever since.

**Richard Green** has been facilitating Te Tiriti courses since 2001 after completing a certificate of Treaty Education at MIT. He has facilitated courses for the education, arts, and health sectors, with a special interest in equity for school students.

**Sarah Sharpe** works as a Neurodiversity Consultant through her company 'Sharpe Minds'. She has facilitated professional development in both the education and private sectors.

**Saylene Tanielu-Ulberg** is a Pacific educator who specialises in how to better support Pacific learners. She contributed to the development of the Pacific Cultural Centredness Pathway tool.

**Suzanne Cookson** is the Chief Executive of ADHD New Zealand. Improving educational achievement for those with ADHD is a key focus for her.

**Tracey Rountree** is an ADHD coach, educator, and advocate with over a decade of experience facilitating workshops, a background in psychology, and lived experience as both a parent and adult with ADHD.



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