

Barriers and enablers to literacy and numeracy: insights from the Pacific people

Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant
New Zealand Work Research Institute
AUT University



Context

More than 1.3 million NZ adults live with low literacy and/or numeracy (L+N) skills

- Significant economic and social costs
- Unemployment, poverty, issues with mental health and wellbeing
- Over-representation of certain ethnic groups in low skilled jobs
- Increased reliance on government assistance and loan sharks, overall debts
- Sustained racial profiling, discrimination, barriers to progress
- Inequity and inequality

The experience, expression and transcendence of low skills in Aotearoa New Zealand

- Mixed-methods project, 5-year, MBIE Endeavour grant
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative: Māori (Waikato University), Pasifika (AUT University)
- New Zealand Work Research Institute
- Provide policy recommendations to improve life-course trajectories
- Reshape the way NZ seeks to enhance L+N
- Focus on effective intervention
- Qualitative focus provides insights into the lived experiences and practical implications of low L+N at the micro, meso, macro, familial, cultural and community levels





NZ Work Research Institute: Team of Teams



Pacific Research Team