February, 2011

- Literature Review completed and submitted to Ako Aotearoa
- Summary of findings submitted to Ako Aotearoa

**Brief summary of key findings to date:**

This research project focuses on the development of bicultural competence in early childhood education. Māori language, culture and identity are inextricably woven into the interactions and engagements of people and environments. The research project investigates bicultural educational priorities within the early childhood and tertiary education sectors. Seven cohort (EC626 OPNZ Students, EC725 OPNZ students, University of Canterbury Students, OPNZ Graduates, Tangata Whenau, OPNZ Lecturers, Tertiary providers ITEs).

The data for this research project has been triangulated to enable the analysis of correlated and cross matching of key themes. The key themes are:

- What is cultural identity?
- What is cultural competency?
- Importance of ECE teachers in speaking te reo Māori and the articulation and implementation of tikanga Māori
- Barriers to the implementation of te reo
- Barriers to the implementation of tikanga
- Neo-Liberalism – future iterations
- It’s all about Ako
- Resources (bicultural kaupapa Māori) needed to better support teachers work

**Forthcoming events:**

February – April

- **Kanohi ki te kanohi interviews with project mentors/kaumātua.** A scheduled hui in Wellington to discuss the creation research tools for 2nd March 2011 with both lead researchers
- **OPNZ Design Team Hui** 17th March, 2011 (Lower Hutt)
- **Project Mentors Hui** 18th March, 2011 (Wellington): Creation of sector tools from research findings
- **Early Childhood Convention:** 26th April, 2011 “Building Kaupapa Māori in Early Childhood Education”