

Success for Pacific Learners: The Impact of Tertiary Education Strategies

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In 2012 the Wellington Institute of Technology reported on the impact of the three successive Tertiary Education Strategies on success for Pasifika learners. This research, commissioned by Ako Aotearoa, examined the annual reports of 18 tertiary education institutions (TEIs). There were 8 universities and 10 institutes of technology polytechnics (ITPs) who participated in the study. Data was also collected through key informant interviews with each TEI. Though the study found that government strategies had influenced performance and management in the TEIs, the results varied from TEI to TEI and a significant number did not report on key performance indicators related to government strategy for Pasifika. Most informants considered that change requires a whole of institution commitment. To avoid the risk of planning for Pasifika people becoming a 'tick box' exercise, clear institutional objectives needed to be established and staff allocated the authority and responsibility to progress these objectives, particularly Pasifika staff. Consistent and complete reporting of performance targets for Pasifika-related objectives would also require TEIs to take action in this area and suggestions are made about how this might be implemented. In an extension of these findings, subsequent initiatives by The Wellington Institute of Technology that respond to the most recent of Government initiatives for Pasifika learners are outlined.