



# LITERACY EDITORIALS AOTEAROA 2022

A snapshot of publications / editorials, podcasts, most published 2022—click on story to read

## POLICY POINT: A WAY AHEAD FOR NCEA LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Dr Michael Johnston Policy Point 19 July, 2022

Alarming results have come from a pilot of new literacy and numeracy assessments for NCEA. The new assessments are scheduled to be introduced as part of the Ministry of Education's review of the NCEA system. Just one third of the pilot students passed the writing assessment, and only two thirds passed each of the reading and numeracy assessments.

In this short policy paper, Dr Michael Johnston, says that the pilot demonstrates an urgent need to reform the teaching of literacy and numeracy in New Zealand's schools.

Dr Johnston also recommends a way ahead for the new standards, one that intends to recognise political reality while making it possible still to implement a robust credential for literacy and numeracy.

But perhaps the most important recommendation is for structured literacy and numeracy teaching to be systematically implemented in New Zealand's schools.

### The problem with literacy

Conversations that Count – Ngā Kōrero Whai Take

## Reading the signs: Why literacy rates are falling

From The Detail, 6:00 am on 14 June 2022

Emilia Donovan, co-host of The Detail  
emilia.donovan@nzca.govt.nz

Young people aren't reading for pleasure as much as they used to and we're relying on digital devices more and more - is this contributing to declining rates of literacy?

Listen Add to playlist Download

## Report will reveal 'dire state' of literacy in Aotearoa - expert

Mon, Mar 21 • Source: News

It is expected a report into where Aotearoa New Zealand is at in terms of literacy achievement will reveal the "dire state" of it, an expert says.

Report will reveal 'dire state' of literacy in Aotearoa - expert 09:26

## Damning report exposes declining literacy rates

From Morning Report, 8:45 am on 21 March 2022

### SUMMARY OF NZ MoE RR DATA

- Around 51% of schools have RR
- Approx 23% of Year 2 students involved in RR in schools offering the programme
- More high decile than low decile schools
- Māori & Pasifika 45-50% of all RR students
- Each year around 75% discontinued
- Each year 15%+ unrecovered
- Over 50% Māori & Pasifika unrecovered
- More unrecovered in low decile schools

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—L. Major, Tui Trust

## Child poverty statistics show all measures trending downwards over the last three years

24 February 2022, 10:45am

All measures of child poverty were trending downwards, across the three years since the year ended June 2018, Stats NZ said today.

There is no single measure of poverty in New Zealand. The Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 (the Act) sets out a multi-level, multi-measure approach to measuring child poverty. The statistics for the year ended June 2021 includes estimates of the measures specified in the Act and compares statistics over the three years since the year ended June 2018 (the baseline year).

The Act requires the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction to set intermediate (three-year) and long-term (10-year) targets for reducing child poverty in New Zealand. The Minister set targets for three primary measures. The first intermediate target period ends with the statistics reported for the year ended June 2021.

## Whakaata Pāremata Parliament On Demand

Parliament TV On Demand

Didn't catch it the first time? Watch Parliament TV On Demand to see what your MPs debated. Videos are typically available on the same day as the live broadcast, but in some cases they make take up to 24 hours to appear.

## Whanganui teachers upskilling thanks to new literacy project

By Mike Tweed 3 Sep, 2022 05:00 AM 5 mins to read

Literacy Project team members (from left) Rebekah Wells, Felicity Butchart-Smyth, Nicky Collins and Jade Wakeling. Photo / Supplied

## Call for literacy approach which saw dyslexic boy thrive

By Kate Nicol-Williams, News Reporter Mon, Apr 11 • Source: News

The mother of a son with dyslexia wants the literacy approach that has seen him make major progress implemented in all schools.

## What Makes a Good Life for Tamariki and Rangatahi Māori?

4 June 2021 Reports

As part of our engagement with children and young people for our *What Makes a Good Life 2020-21*, we did 175 face-to-face engagements with tamariki and rangatahi Māori. This summary report shows how they envision a good life for themselves and their whānau, and the barriers they face to experiencing a good life. Tamariki and rangatahi gave us four key insights into what a good life means for them: We want the opportunity to be our true and best selves in Māori. We want the education system to work for us. We want safe, close and supportive communities.

## Mana and kaitiakitanga in ECE

Concepts of mana and kaitiakitanga are fundamental to Māori understandings of wellbeing. In this webinar, Dr Lesley Hameka (University of Waikato) explores how mana can be promoted through kaitiakitanga or active guardianship, as one way of meeting the practice expectations outlined in Te Whāriki (2017).

## Now I don't know my ABC

March 1, 2022

The perilous state of literacy in Aotearoa New Zealand

A 2020 UNICEF report found that only 64.6% of 15-year-olds

## NCEA online shakeups a 'bolt from the blue' for educators

10:46 am on 1 August 2022

John Gerritsen, Education Correspondent @RNZEducation john.gerritsen@rnz.co.nz

Secondary school principals have told officials to rethink plans for offering online NCEA tests during the year.

## A mother's story: Diagnosing my daughter's dyslexia

By Julie Clothier 25 Jan, 2021 05:00 AM 6 mins to read

Julie Clothier's daughter, who has dyslexia, was read from 10 weeks old. Photo / Supplied

## Schools footing bill to teach teachers how to teach reading

8:43 am on 20 November 2020

Ruth Hill, Reporter @ruth.hill@rnz.co.nz

Schools around the country are paying tens of thousands of dollars to private consultants to change the way they teach reading.

## Experts say NZ children are facing school postcode lottery, neurodivergent kids at most risk after shocking NCEA pilot results

20/7/2022 Island Hendry, Tennent

## Student struggle: Dire new NCEA results

By Beth Clarke, Editor

"I don't think it should come as any surprise to teachers who are paying attention," says Dr Michael Johnston, Associate Dean of Victoria University's School of Education.

Discussing the fallout following results of a pilot year of new NCEA standards to last October. "I don't think it should come as any surprise to teachers who are paying attention," says Dr Michael Johnston, Associate Dean of Victoria University's School of Education.

Dr Johnston said he hoped the new might be re-evaluated by teachers and school leaders. "We need more people than just writing gradates to reform the way in which we assess literacy and numeracy for the nation's schools. We need to use much more evidence-based approaches that actually work, and for that to be a NZ-wide approach."

He said the Minister of Education should commission a study of assessment to recognize a standards in quantitative skills in the sciences and geographical features were reduced under the 2019's implementation. He also noted the public had not really understood that there was a problem as there is no study to show the situation.

## Funding kickstart needed from Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori to boost te reo in education, says union

School News 22 hours ago 33 2 minutes read

## Reading block: NZ's falling literacy crisis - why our kids can't read

18 Aug, 2022 04:50 AM 11 minutes to read

Holly Hancock spent thousands on private schooling and tuition trying to help her son with his reading difficulties. Photo / Brett Phibbs

## Damning new report finds two in five New Zealand children failing or only just meeting literacy standards

21/03/2022 Shannon Reddall

## 'Whole system change' required for country's poor literacy and numeracy rates

Ellen O'Dwyer - 15:37, Mar 25 2022

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## Expert explains how to improve Kiwi kids' numeracy and literacy

Wed, Jul 13 • Source: News

There are effective ways to improve Kiwi kids' numeracy and literacy, according to one teacher and researcher, who claims they've been declining since the 1970s.

Expert explains how New Zealand kids' education can be improved 08:07

## READING WITH THE LIGHT SWITCHED ON

Steen Videbeck 26 November, 2021

New Zealand's reading light has been dimming for some time.

International assessments show New Zealand's reading performance has fallen, and that Māori and Pasifika students are particularly underserved.

Behind the statistics, our failure has a human face. Kids who label themselves as being 'dumb' because they are struggling to learn to read. Kids who withdraw from learning.

Despite the challenges, there are many reasons to be optimistic. A revolution in the way literacy is taught in New Zealand schools is underway.

Throughout the country, teachers and concerned parents have questioned the poor literacy rates among their children. Their questioning of the status quo has led them to an evidence-based approach called Structured Literacy.

## NEW NCEA LITERACY REQUIREMENTS WILL IMPROVE LONG-RUN PRODUCTIVITY

Dr Michael Johnston NZ Herald 12 July, 2022

It's no secret that low productivity is a major issue for the New Zealand economy. There are many factors contributing to that.

One, which may sometimes be overlooked, is declining literacy. Research published by the Tertiary Education Commission in 2014 examined the literacy of a cohort of young people commencing non-university tertiary education.

More than half had literacy skills below those that are considered necessary to operate in an information-rich society.

The research also revealed that the current NCEA literacy requirement is a very poor indicator of those

## Lit Minute with Dr Olwyn Johnston

Lit Minute

## Literacy Crisis

Introducing a structured literacy approach

Like Comment Share 242 259 Comments 26K Views

## Podcast: Oliver Hartwich and Michael Johnston on New Zealand's education emergency

The New Zealand Institute

## Tonga Language Week has new lea-faka Tonga goals

Minister for Pacific Peoples Aupito William Sio is urging Tongans everywhere to embrace Uike Katoanga 'o le lea faka-Tonga - Tonga Language Week 2022, to help stop the decline in its use by the New Zealand born Tongan population.

## Changing the narrative on ADHD

From Afternoons with Jessa Muligan, 3:10 pm on 24 May 2022

"Imagine somebody sitting on the keys of a computer, that's ADHD," says American fashion designer Steve Madden in a new film.

A host of celebrities have opened up about their journey with the condition in the documentary, which follows five families as they navigate raising children diagnosed with ADHD.

The film's executive producer, Nancy Armstrong, has a husband, Tim, and three children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Through *The Disruptors*, she wants to change the way we think of ADHD from disorder to secret power.

## Low pass rates in trial of NCEA literacy and numeracy tests alarm principals

RNZ 7 Sep, 2022 06:27 AM 4 mins to read

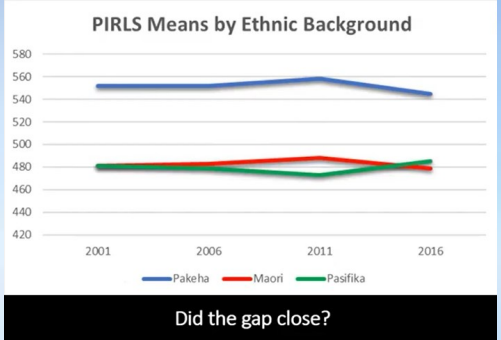
New tests could make it harder for some students to get NCEA, principals say. Photo / John Borren, File

By John Gerritsen of RNZ



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## More investment in literacy skills is needed if NZ is serious about ending persistent disparities for Pasifika students

School News • 1 week ago



## NCEA trials new literacy and numeracy tests, to low pass rates

Dr Michael Johnston

There are some worryingly low pass results in a NCEA literacy and numeracy trial. Year 10 students have trialled the test, which will be made compulsory for year 11 students in 2024.

## READING WITH THE LIGHT SWITCHED ON

Steven Vadeboncoig

New Zealand's reading light has been dimming for some time. International assessments show New Zealand's reading performance has fallen, and that Māori and Pasifika students are particularly underserved.

## Reading Recovery's refresh - will it satisfy its critics?

RNZ

## All in for learning | Kia kotahi te ū ki te ako

Being engaged in learning really matters, right from a child's first days in early learning, throughout primary schooling and secondary schooling.

## Every school day is a big day

Right now almost half of our tamariki don't regularly attend school. Together we'll change that.

## Structured literacy provides solid foundations

By Education Gazette editors

A structured literacy approach is plugging foundational gaps, with children requiring extra support at a Wanaka school.

- Better Start Literacy Approach
- Student and whānau kōrero



## School suspensions can help get support for autistic kids - Principals' Federation president

By Dubby Henry

## Abolish school streaming to improve education for Māori students, says research

Lee Kenny

## REPORTS & MEDIA

THE NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE

REPORTS OPINION MEDIA INSIGHTS NEWSLETTERS

### CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Dr Michael Johnston

## Neurodiversity - unlocking the causes and dispelling the myths

RNZ

From *Nine To Noon*, 9:20 am on 17 August 2022

We are all wired differently. Dyslexia, dyscalculia, ADHD and autism spectrum conditions are all variations that can exist in our brains.

## CRYING FOWL

Dr Michael Johnston

The chickens of negligence have come home to roost - but they're not welcome in the Henhouse of Education.

## TVNZ 1 Breakfast Interview - Professor James Chapman and Dr Jennifer Buckingham

Experts come together to improve literacy standards.

## Learning about their rights empowers ākonga

By Education Gazette editors

A new education programme developed by Save the Children New Zealand aims to teach Year 0-13 ākonga in Aotearoa about their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Conversations That Count - Ngā Kōrero Whai Take is back for a third season, beginning with a kōrero about the state of literacy in Aotearoa.

University academic (and featured guest) Dr Christine Braid to set the scene.

## Providing solutions & hope for those with specific learning disabilities

SEABROOK MCKENZIE CENTRE

ASSESSMENTS TUITION COVID-19 RESPONSE

## THREE MAJOR FACTORS IN FAILURE

- Constructivist orientation to literacy teaching (pedagogical constructivism)
- Literate cultural capital at school entry (background language experiences)
- Failure of Reading Recovery to fulfil its stated mission

Prof James Chapman: The past and future of literacy education in New Zealand.

## Student struggle: Dire new NCEA results

By Anne Clarke

of students failed the new numeracy and reading elements in response to the new NCEA Level 1. The New Zealand education system has produced a record of low pass rates for students who are struggling to learn to read.

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## Govt announces \$44m to increase teacher numbers, support students affected by Covid

NEWS EDUCATION

NZ Herald, Wed, 14 Sep 2022, 2:00pm

## Radical changes to how Kiwi kids learn to read

Jan Tinetti

NZQandA TVNZ

## SYSTEM IN FREEFALL: WHY NZ CHILDREN FACE EDUCATION TRAGEDY

Dr Oliver Hartwich

A little more than half a year after New Zealand Labour came to power in 2017, Education Minister Chris Hipkins held two education summits. There were 1,400 people at the Auckland and Christchurch events, which cost NZ\$3.1 million to run.

## Streaming in schools: The 'seismic shift' that's looming in education

nzherald.co.nz

LISTENER

## Spelling out dyslexics' needs

Vaneesa Bellew

The system is stacked against families that can't afford private help for dyslexic kids and people working with struggling learners want the Ministry of Education to do more, reports Vaneesa Bellew, in the second part of a two-part feature.

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