

A new feature in National Monitoring since 1999 has been the commitment to look directly at the achievement of Pacific students in New Zealand primary and intermediate schools. These students were among the samples in NEMP assessments between 1995 and 1998, but not in sufficient numbers to allow their results to be reported separately. At the request of the Ministry of Education, NEMP now selects special additional samples of 120 year 4 students and 120 year 8 students to allow the achievement of Pacific students to be assessed and reported. The augmented samples are too small, however, to allow separate reporting on students from different Pacific nations (such as Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji).

All schools in the main NEMP year 8 sample that had 15 percent or more Pacific students (as classified in school records) were selected. All other schools nationally with at least 12 year 8 students and at least 20 percent Pacific students in their total roll were identified, and an additional random sample of 10 schools drawn from this list. A similar procedure was followed at year 4 level, except that schools already chosen at year 8 level were excluded from the sampling list. From each specially sampled school, 12 students (in 3 groups of 4) were sampled, confirmed and assessed using exactly the same procedures as in the main sample. The students' performances were also scored in the same manner as the performances of students in the main sample.

The results for Pacific, Maori, and other students in the schools with more than 15 percent Pacific students were then compared. Because all of the schools chosen for these analyses have at least 15 percent Pacific students, the results only apply to students at schools like these.

Differences among the three ethnic groups of students were checked for statistical significance using one way analysis of variance on the overall scores for each task attempted by individual students. Each analysis compared the performance of about 35 Pacific students, 25 Maori students and 30 other students. The critical level for statistical significance was set at $p = .05$ (so that differences this large or larger among the subgroups would not be expected by chance in more than five percent of cases). Where statistical significance occurred, Tukey tests were used to identify which groups differed significantly.

The mean scores for each group on each task are presented in the tables below, together with the standard deviations for all students in this sample. Statistically significant differences are clearly indicated.

For year 4 students, there were statistically significant differences in performance among the three groups on 6 of the 19 tasks. The Pacific students scored significantly lower than the Maori students on *Nut Cracker*, but scored higher on *Link Task 3*. Both the Pacific and Maori students scored lower than the "other" students on *Buzzer* and *Help Me Peel*. The Maori students also scored lower than the "other students" on *Link Task 3*, *Chairs* and *Picture Stand*.

For year 8 students, there were statistically significant differences in performance among the three groups on 5 of the 23 tasks. The Pacific students scored significantly lower than the "other students" on *Puppet Make-up* and *Link Task 9*. The Maori students also scored significantly lower than the "other" students on *Puppet Make-up*, *Strawberry Patch*, *Talking Text* and *Help Me Peel*. There were no tasks with statistically significant differences between Maori and Pacific students.

Overall these results suggest similar levels of performance for Pacific students, Maori students and "other" students in schools with at least 15 percent Pacific students, but with a slight tendency for the "other students" to do better.

YEAR 4

YEAR 8

Average (mean) marks for year 4 and year 8 students, attending schools enrolling at least fifteen percent Pacific students, who are classified as Pacific students, Māori students or other students.

	Pacific Mean	Māori Mean	Other Mean	Overall Std.Dev.		Pacific Mean	Māori Mean	Other Mean	Overall Std.Dev.
Puppet Make-up	4.5	4.6	3.8	1.9	Puppet Make-up	4.9	5.0	6.8	2.4
Buzzer	4.8	3.9	6.1	2.3	Buzzer	6.2	6.1	7.1	2.0
Taking Care	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.0	Taking Care	2.0	2.8	2.3	1.2
Peg Basket	2.2	2.9	2.7	1.4	Peg Basket	3.2	4.0	3.9	1.3
Sports Day	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.0	Sports Day	4.9	5.7	5.3	2.9
Link Task 1	5.5	6.3	6.6	2.1	Link Task 1	7.7	7.4	8.9	2.5
Link Task 2	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.7	Link Task 2	1.9	1.9	0.9	1.0
Link Task 3	9.9	5.5	8.7	4.8	Link Task 3	11.4	10.7	13.8	6.0
Nut Cracker	2.6	3.6	3.1	1.0	Nut Cracker	3.0	3.4	3.6	1.2
Strawberry Patch	2.2	2.3	2.5	1.0	Strawberry Patch	2.9	2.1	3.2	1.1
Guinea Pig House	4.6	3.9	5.1	1.9	Pet House	7.9	7.5	9.2	2.7
					Light the Lights	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.0
					Talking Text	20.4	19.3	20.6	1.5
Bear Box	10.1	8.1	8.7	3.7	Bear Box	12.6	12.1	13.3	2.7
Help Me Peel	5.4	4.2	7.4	2.7	Help Me Peel	8.0	7.5	9.4	2.5
Chairs	2.0	1.6	2.5	1.3	Chairs	6.2	5.8	6.8	2.1
Picture Stand	7.9	7.0	8.7	2.3					
					Photo Stand	10.4	11.3	11.2	3.0
Link Task 4	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.3	Link Task 4	2.7	1.9	3.0	1.4
Link Task 5	1.4	1.4	2.3	2.1	Link Task 5	2.9	2.5	3.9	2.6
Link Task 6	4.0	4.4	5.1	2.6	Link Task 6	7.1	7.6	8.4	3.4
					Link Task 7	4.9	3.7	5.3	2.9
					Timber Factory	3.0	3.2	3.9	2.1
Link Task 9	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.9	Link Task 9	2.3	2.8	3.4	1.3

Statistically significant ($p < .05$) differences among the means are shown thus: significantly **lower** or **higher**.