

### Māori Immersion Education Sample

Ten schools were selected randomly from national lists of schools teaching through Māori medium at year 8 level, with their probability of selection proportional to the number of year 8 students. Six schools were selected from Māori immersion schools (such as Kura Kaupapa Māori) that had at least four year 8 students, and four schools from other schools that had at least four year 8 students in classes classified as Level 1 immersion (80 to 100 percent of instruction taking place in Māori). Only students that the schools reported to be in at least their fifth year of immersion education were included in the sampling process. About 60 percent of these students appeared to be in Māori medium schools (mainly Kura Kaupapa Māori), which is why six of the ten schools in the initial sample were chosen from that category.

### Pairing Small Schools

Three of the 10 chosen schools had less than 12 year 8 students. For each of these schools, we identified the nearest small school meeting our criteria to be paired with the first school. Wherever possible, schools with eight to 11 students were paired with schools with four to seven students, and vice versa. However, the travelling distances between the schools were also taken into account.

### Contacting Schools

Early in August, we telephoned the principals or acting principals of all schools in the sample. In those telephone calls, we briefly explained the purpose of national monitoring, the safeguards for schools and students and the practical demands that participation would make on

schools and students. We informed the principals about the materials which would be arriving in the school (a copy of a 20-minute NEMP videotape plus copies for all staff and trustees of the general NEMP brochure (in Māori and in English) and the information booklet for sample schools. We asked the principals to consult with their staff and Board of Trustees and confirm their participation by early September.

### Response From Schools

Two of the five sampled schools with Māori immersion classes withdrew. One was a paired school and was not replaced because the school paired with it had at least 12 students available. The other could not be replaced within the same region because there were no suitable schools in that region. It was replaced by a Māori immersion school from a different region. These changes in the Māori immersion sample are less severe than the changes experienced in some other years, but still raise some doubts about how nationally representative the Māori immersion results remain.

### Sampling Of Students

With their confirmation of participation, each school was asked to send a list of the names of all year 8 students with more than four years of Māori immersion education. Using computer generated random numbers, we randomly selected the required number of students (12, or four plus eight in a pair of small schools), at the same time clustering them into random groups of four students. The schools were then sent a list of their selected students and invited to inform us if special care would be needed in assessing any of those children.

### Communication With Parents

Following these discussions with the school, Project staff prepared letters to all of the parents, including copies of the NEMP brochure in both Māori and English, and asked the schools to address the letters and mail them. Parents were told they could obtain further information from Project staff (using an 0800 number) or their school principal, and advised that they had the right to ask that their child be excluded from the assessment.

### Practical Arrangement With Schools

On the basis of preferences expressed by the schools, we then allocated each school to one of the five assessment weeks available and gave them contact information for the two teachers who would come to the school for a week to conduct the assessments. We also provided information about the assessment schedule and the space and furniture requirements, offering to pay for hire of a nearby facility if the school was too crowded to accommodate the assessment programme.

### Resulting Samples

As noted earlier, the sample of schools was moderately affected because two originally-sampled schools which were expected to provide 20 of the 120 students did not participate. Also, one school was found to have only 10 rather than 12 students available, and six selected students left school at short notice or were absent for the entire assessment week. They could not be replaced. This left the final assessed sample at 112 students. These losses reduce the extent to which the results can be regarded as representative of the capabilities of all Māori medium year 8 students in New Zealand.