

Capitalising on diversity: Strategies for effective group work

Trish Baker¹ and Jill Clark²

1 Wellington Institute of Technology, Private Bag 39803 Wellington www.weltec.ac.nz Trish.Baker@weltec.ac.nz

2 Whitireia Community Polytechnic Private Bag 50910 Porirua City www.whitireia.ac.nz J.Clark@whitireia.ac.nz

"The value of working in groups as a strategy for learning, and the development of communication and interpersonal skills is acknowledged in most tertiary institutions." (Bonnano, Jones, & English, 1998) But how effective is group work in the current New Zealand tertiary sector; with its wider diversity of students? How can we ensure that we send our students into the workplace with a positive attitude towards working in groups?

This workshop will focus on the fundamentals of group formation and development and the effective use of peer evaluation with diverse student groups. It will be an interactive session where participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and suggestions for more effective work with diverse groups in the classroom.