

# Research with Reality - Māori and Pasifika Youth Transition Experiences in Education

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This presentation explores the tertiary experiences of a group of young people who identify as Māori and Pasifika. These young people were studying as part of the fees-free Youth Guarantee funding initiative at an Institute of Technology in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our particular interests in Māori and Pasifika youth as a growing demographic enabled targeted research to develop. The intention of the research is to understand what critical influencing factors enabled this particular group to overcome a range of barriers. What are the transformative factors that influenced these young students' successes in tertiary level study?

Based on the shared educational experiences from the young people in this study, there are five keys that tertiary institutions could consider to unlocking the success of Māori and Pasifika youth in educational transition. These are detailed in the research presentation alongside the reality of lived experiences from a practitioner and team leader working with Youth.

We offer specific strategies for engaging with young people and frontline experiences that create strong synergies enabled by research based framework. This ensures young people and their achievements are the continued focus and investment therefore benefiting the diversity of students.

## Key Words

Research, Reality, Māori, Pasifika, Youth, Transition, Transformative, Successes, Strategies, Diversity