

## Co-Construction Meetings



As part of the cycle of professional development, co-construction meetings are led and facilitated by members of the Te Kotahitanga facilitation team. Co-construction meetings are meetings where professional learning conversations take place amongst a group of teachers who teach a common junior form class. At Massey High School we also hold co-construction meetings for teachers of senior classes and option classes, with discussions based around pedagogy and best practice. These meetings and professional learning conversations give rise to professional learning communities.

The meetings involve the sharing of evidence for the purpose of raising Maori student achievement. The focus of a co-construction meeting is on outcomes for students in classes and on strategies for enhancing learning rather than on teachers' curriculum areas. Co-construction groups are similar to quality learning groups or quality learning circles in some schools. The difference however, is that the co-construction meeting is led by a highly skilled facilitator who continuously focuses the meeting on the goal of raising Maori student achievement while also challenging deficit theorising around Maori students. As Vivienne Robinson (2007) points out "When the new learning challenged teachers' existing understandings, deep rather than superficial engagement with those understandings was needed, so that a co-constructed alternative theory of practice could be developed. This required leaders of the professional development to be highly skilled in their facilitation of teacher learning." As part of the co-construction meeting, a common goal is co-constructed amongst teachers at the meeting which they all will work towards.