

**COOPER, Garrick** (Ngati Whanaunga (Hauraki) and Ngati Ranginui (Tauranga Moana)  
New Zealand Council for Educational Research  
New Zealand

Garrick is a kairangahau in Te Wāhanga Kaupapa Māori. His research interests include Māori immersion education, kaupapa Māori education, and Māori in tertiary education. Garrick has been actively involved in kura kaupapa Māori education for over ten years, as a whānau member. He has a BA, a Post Graduate Diploma and has taught at tertiary level for over five years.

[http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?products\\_id=132](http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?products_id=132)

---

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Pursuing Quality Education in Kura Kaupapa Māori**

Without Māori parents, there would be no kura kaupapa Māori (and kōhanga reo). Indeed it was they who set up these initiatives outside the state. Initially their involvement centred on ensuring a space was created for kura kaupapa Māori on the Aotearoa educational landscape.

More recently the focus has shifted to defining and redefining educational “quality” in kura kaupapa Māori. However Māori parents do this redefining within the context of a number of external and internal factors. External factors include the National Curriculum and learning restricted to classrooms. Internal factors include the individual experiences that frame what education “*should*” be. Together these exert a powerful pull to conform to mainstream ideas about quality education.

This paper looks at what quality education in kura kaupapa Māori *could* look like by discussing some of the possible features of a kura kaupapa Māori curriculum. It will also look at a resource designed for kura kaupapa Māori and Māori immersion schools which attempts to incorporate a Māori worldview and a Māori pedagogy. The aim of this presentation is to contribute to an ongoing discussion about quality education in kura kaupapa Māori.