



## Ending Streaming in Aotearoa – A discussion guide for educators

From the very first day our children walk through the school door, we tell them they are clever, or they are struggling. For those identified by teachers as clever, they get more attention, more positive messaging, and the more challenging work. They are told – **You Can!** For those labelled teachers as struggling, they get negative messaging, less challenging work and expectations of them are lowered – **You Can't!** This is our education system at its worst.

No one benefits from streaming – not even the so called 'bright' kids. For many Māori and Pasifika students, streaming is especially damaging. Bias and racism play a role in telling too many – **You Can't!** Career doors are closed and aspirations lowered. We all pay a price for this. As *Ending Streaming in Aotearoa* demonstrates, there is an alternative and better way.

However, as this publication shows, almost every school in New Zealand streams or ability groups students.

Government policy is that schools shouldn't stream, however despite this, over 90 percent of schools in New Zealand continue to stream or ability group students.

This discussion guide is intended to deepen your understanding of the issues as educators and to start the process of how you might take action to bring about change. The questions are provided to start the conversation. Feel free to ignore or add others more relevant to your situation.

Karawhūia!

### Titiro Whakamuri – Looking to the past to understand the present

- In the past, has your school or ECE Centre streamed/banded students into groups based on ability? What was the approach?
- Do you have any historical data, insights or student/whānau voice about the impact of streaming, particularly for Māori and Pasifika students?

### Titiro Whakaroto – Looking to the present to chart the course to the future

- Does your school or ECE Centre currently stream? How do you choose groups or bands?
- What data do you have to show the positive or negative impacts of streaming historically in your school?
- Is it possible to undertake research to provide insights into the impact of streaming?
- Has your school or ECE Centre stopped streaming? If so, how did you do this?

- Why did you remove streaming?
- What challenges did you face?
- What did you learn that might help others?
- What changes have you noticed?

**Titiro Whakamua – Plotting the course to the future**

- Why might your school or ECE Centre consider stopping streaming?
- Who might be available to support your journey?
- How might you connect with others to scale up for impact?
- If you have already stopped streaming, how might you support other schools that are considering changing?

If you would like to share your stories, please email us: [streaming@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:streaming@ngaitahu.iwi.nz) Your journey is important to us.