

Learning Better Together

A seminar on inclusive practice

Thurs, 27 October 2011

9.30am - 3.30pm

Butterfly Creek
Tom Pearce Drive,
Auckland International Airport

What is the seminar about?

This is a seminar for teachers, parents and others interested in developing schools that include, value and teach all students well. It takes a 'student perspective' to highlight some of the issues students in our research have raised about their learning and social experiences at school. The seminar is based on the understanding that inclusive education is about ensuring **all** students develop a positive identity and sense of belonging, participate fully and are taught well.

The seminar aims to develop participants' thinking about how schools can respond to diversity through;

- Examples from research with students, parents, teachers and teacher aides.
- Small group work using scenarios about students' learning and social experiences.
- Small group work focused on issues relevant to participants' own schools.
- A DVD on inclusive education.
- Work undertaken by student teachers on inclusive practice.

What will participants take away from the seminar?

Participants will leave the seminar with;

- An understanding about what inclusive education is and what it looks like in practice.
- Ideas for developing inclusive practice in their own school, including one particular idea to be implemented following the seminar.
- A copy of the DVD *Learning Better Together* and a small resource folder that includes useful articles and information



The Presenters

Dr Jude MacArthur

Jude is a senior lecturer at Massey University and is part of the team working on the Postgraduate Diploma for Specialist Teaching. A former primary teacher, she has also worked as a lecturer in Education at the University of Otago, teaching in the area of inclusive education. In 2000 she moved to the Donald Beasley Institute in Dunedin where she led national research projects in the area of education and disability, including projects for the Ministry of Education. Jude's research interests have evolved out of her work with children, young people and adults with disabilities, and include the school experiences of students with disabilities; students' rights, friendships and social relationships; and the development of schools as inclusive communities.



Dr Gill Rutherford

Gill is a senior lecturer in Education and Disability Studies at the University of Otago. She has had the privilege of knowing and working with disabled children and adults over the last thirty years. A former high school teacher, her work as a tertiary educator since 1995 has focused on inclusive education within teacher and teacher aide education programmes. In 2008, she completed her PhD, *Different ways of knowing? Understanding disabled students' and teacher aides' school experiences*



Programme

9.30 -10.30am **Inclusive practice - what are we talking about?**

This session looks at the current research exploring students' experiences, and at relevant guidance and legislation, to explore what inclusive education is and where it has come from. It establishes the foundations of inclusion in human rights, social justice and school values. We introduce the idea that schools and classes can be located along a continuum from inclusion to exclusion.

10.30-10.45am **MORNING TEA** (*provided*)

10.45-12.00pm **Values – the basis for inclusive practice in our schools**

This session focuses on the key ingredient in schools that are working towards inclusion – values. Through the voices of students in our research, we will be exploring the values and assumptions that underpin their experiences of inclusion and exclusion at school. Participants will explore their own school's values and reflect on their capacity to support inclusion.

12.00-12.45pm **LUNCH** (*provided*)

12.45-2.15pm **Putting inclusive values into practice in schools**

Inclusion is concerned with *how values are put into practice throughout the school day* - in the classroom and wider school, and beyond the school gate. Consistent with the New Zealand Curriculum's focus on students' learning and social experiences, participants will explore the various ways in which schools can support the full participation and positive identity of all students within the New Zealand Curriculum's focus on students' learning and social experiences. This session includes an opportunity for participants to consider the ways in which their own schools put school values into practice.

2.15-2.30pm **AFTERNOON BREAK**

2.30-3.15pm **Moving on and along the continuum – developing Inclusive practice in my own school**

Participants will work in small groups to reflect on the material covered in the seminar and to develop one idea that will move their school along the continuum, and in the direction of inclusion.

3.15-3.30pm **WRAP UP**

RSVP to Danette Wilson by 20 October
danette.wilson@ihc.org.nz or 0800 442 442
With your name, organisation, role, contact details, dietary or any other requirements.

This is a free seminar
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