



Rangahau Mātauranga o Aotearoa

Strategy | 2017–2021

NZCER Strategy 2017–2021

Education in Aotearoa New Zealand should enable every learner to discover their potential and realise their aspirations.

Our purpose

NZCER inspires education. We play a leading role in research, developing tools, and providing services that drive effective learning and positive change in policy and practice.

Established in 1934, NZCER is an independent research and development organisation, operating under its own legislation since 1945. We use the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa to help us uphold mana Māori in our work, relationships, and ways of working.

We draw on a rich heritage of, and play an active part in, shaping the future of education. The NZCER Act 1972 provides us with a mandate to carry out and disseminate education research, and provide independent information, advice, and assistance.

Our values

Our values guide how we work with others, our behaviours, and decision making.

Independence

We use robust evidence to speak with confidence and authority.

Collaboration

We work with complementary expertise to achieve greater impact.

Innovation

Our research, tools, and services help shape the future of learning and education.

Integrity

We use our expertise and strong ethical principles to deliver work that is timely and trusted.

Strategic priorities

To achieve our purpose, we have identified three strategic priorities. NZCER will:

1 Contribute to a socially just and equitable education system

The focus of this strategic priority is for learners underserved in the education system. This includes disproportionate numbers of Māori and Pasifika learners, those from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and learners with additional education needs.

Actions towards this priority include the development of a framework to assess the impact of all our work on education policy and practice. We will also be investing in improving the cultural inclusiveness and accessibility of NZCER tools through frameworks such as universal design for learning.

Our broader work programme will continue to focus on building a portfolio of research, development, tools, and services focused on empowering others and improving outcomes for learners underserved in the education system. We will broaden our reach, and capacity to influence policy and practice, by growing stronger connections with kura, whānau, hapū, iwi, aiga, communities, and other organisations focused on improving equity for learners and equity in education.

2 Improve education outcomes for every Māori learner

We are committed to making a significant contribution to Māori education in ways that bring about positive change in policy and practice to benefit every Māori learner.

Our strategic actions build on our history in this area, initially focused on building sector capability specifically in te reo Māori across English-medium settings. From 2019, we will extend our focus to positively impact on student learning in kura and Māori-medium settings through research, tools, and services to support leader and teacher capability.

NZCER will continue to build our portfolio of kaupapa Māori research, publications, and evaluation with potential to benefit every Māori learner.

3 Lead thinking and shape the future of education

We will take a leading role in analysing how well the system is working to achieve its aims. We will engage with future-focused ideas that challenge the status quo and encourage learning in new and purposeful ways.

The strategic actions will strengthen the leadership contribution we make in research, data analysis, evaluations, and advisory services that build key knowledge, evaluative coherency and capability in the education sector. Our expertise allows us to lead in curriculum, assessment, systems, policy, vocational learning, wellbeing, school leadership, teacher development, and teaching practice. We will consolidate our leadership by developing valid and useful measures for teaching and learning, and ensure our work is relevant and connected to the evolving needs of wider school networks, for example Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako and Te Rāngai Kāhui Ako ā-iwi.

Our innovative research and evidence-based products and services will continue to expand the reach of high-quality education, from early learning to success as lifelong adult learners.

Strategic actions	NZCER will:	Success indicators				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Contribute to a socially just and equitable education system						
• Develop and use an impact framework to ensure NZCER's research, products, and services contribute to positive change in policy and practice.	◎	◎			◎	Examples identified and shared about clients and stakeholders who are influenced by our work to make changes that benefit learners.
• Broaden the cultural inclusiveness and accessibility of our assessment and survey resources to improve their relevance for every learner.	◎		◎	◎		Teacher feedback to NZCER shows that they find assessment and survey resources relevant for learning. An increasing number of learners from low socioeconomic areas are engaging with NZCER resources.
Improve education outcomes for every Māori learner						
• Develop te reo Māori awareness, knowledge, skills, and capabilities of Māori students, their teachers, leaders, and whānau in English-medium schools through research, tools, and services.	◎	◎	◎			An increasing number of leaders, teachers, and Māori learners are providing positive feedback about the usefulness and impact of our te reo Māori tools, research, and services.
• Develop leader and teacher capability to positively impact student learning in kura and Māori-medium settings through research, tools, and services.		◎	◎	◎		Positive feedback is received from Māori-medium settings about the usefulness and impact of our te reo Māori tools, research, and services.
• Grow the body of research to influence system change for the benefit of Māori learners.	◎		◎			Stakeholders are engaging with NZCER research to understand constraints and enablers and are using this to action change.
Lead thinking and shape the future of education						
• Strengthen NZCER's ability to shape the future of education through strong leadership in research, data analysis, evaluation, and advisory services.	◎		◎	◎		A wide range of clients and stakeholders value NZCER's leadership in shaping the future of education. They give positive feedback and return to us for further advice and work.
• Develop self-managing assessment and evaluative tools that provide valid and useful measures for teaching and learning.	◎	◎	◎	◎		A growing number of users are working with NZCER assessment and evaluative tools and can identify clear benefits.
• Provide leading research, tools, and services to help inform policy and build effective practice in networks of schools (e.g. Kāhui Ako, Te Rāngai Kāhui Ako ā-iwi).	◎		◎			Feedback from end users demonstrates the value we add to effective learning in wider groups and networks of schools.

◎ = planned investment focus