Abstract

Strategies Non-Pacific Tutors Can Use in Their Teaching to Engage Pacific Nursing Students

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Abstract for a project presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Professional Practice

This professional practice project developed, facilitated, and reviewed a Community of Practice (CoP) designed to enhance the cultural capability of, and provide support for, non-Pacific nursing kaiako. It sought to provide support for these kaiako in strengthening the success of Pacific ākonga in Aotearoa New Zealand. Grounded in a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the use of culturally responsive language and practice, the CoP created a collaborative space for reflection, knowledge sharing, and professional growth. Guided by *The Kato Toolkit. From Good to Great: The 10 Habits of phenomenal educators for Pacific learners in New Zealand tertiary education,* the project emphasised the integration of Pacific values and liaison, relational pedagogy, and culturally sustaining teaching approaches.

Kaiako reflected on their teaching practices through a series of structured online sessions incorporating Talanoa methodology and situated learning. They explored Pacific worldviews and examined personal biases. The inclusion of Pacific cultural liaison input further strengthened understanding of culturally safe practices and challenged dominant Western pedagogical norms. Informal feedback gathered indicated increased confidence, cultur al responsiveness, and motivation among participants to adapt their teaching to better meet the needs of Pacific ākonga.

Despite challenges with online delivery and competing workloads, intentional facilitation and clear structure supported sustained engagement. As an ongoing initiative, this CoP provides a sustainable platform for continued collaboration, reflection, and professional development. Overall, the CoP demonstrated effectiveness as a professional learning approach. It reinforced the importance of relational practice, ongoing critical reflection, and cultural mentorship in advancing equitable educational outcomes for Pacific nursing ākonga.

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