

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of Kairaranga for 2015. At the time of going to press, members of parliament were about to debate the second reading of the *Harmful Digital Communications Bill* that will make it an offence to send messages or post material to cause harm. This offence will be punishable by up to two years in jail or a \$2,000 fine. Schools, parents and young people themselves have long-grappled with the harmful effects of cyberbullying, and this potential legislation may be welcomed. However, as Karla Sanders from Sticks'n'Stones (a New Zealand anti-cyberbullying project) points out, it may not be appropriate to criminalise people as young as 14 for actions that they may not fully understand the consequences of (Stuff, 2015). There is no doubt, however, that the issue of cyberbullying must be addressed. As the authors of an article in this edition of Kairaranga point out, cyberbullying is linked to a range of serious adverse outcomes, and growing numbers of our young people are experiencing this form of abuse.

We begin this edition of Kairaranga with an interview with Associate Professor Jill Bevan-Brown who retired from Massey University at the end of 2015. Associate Professor Bevan-Brown has had a long and distinguished career in inclusive and Māori education, and in this interview she shares with Paul Mitchell her passion for the field, her early influences, and the things that have driven her work over the years.

In the second article, Tegan Lynch, Vanessa Green, Chris Bowden and Susan Harcourt report on a study examining parents' perspectives of cyberbullying. This is followed by an opinion piece where John Grant discusses the issue of tertiary education for adults with intellectual disabilities. The fourth article by Carolyn White and Alison Kearney presents findings from a small New Zealand study into the impact of school stand-downs. This article overviews the use of stand-downs in New Zealand schools and explores alternatives to this practice. Next, Dorothy Howie provides an overview of the Feuerstein Approach, and describes her work in this area. The sixth article by Vicki Morkel and Tara McLaughlin discusses social and emotional competence, and its importance in young children's development. They explore strategies that teachers can use to promote the development of social and emotional competence. Finally, Gayathri Prabhakar Pillai explores the literature on the Te Kotahitanga programme with an emphasis on the Effective Teaching Profile.

Finally, with sadness, we say goodbye to Jo Cunningham, a Kairaranga editorial board member who passed away after a courageous period of time battling illness. Jo made a significant contribution to this journal and to the wider education community, and she will be very sadly missed. We send our heart-felt sympathies to her friends, colleagues and family.

Ngā mihi nui
Alison Kearney
for the Kairaranga Editorial Team

Reference: Stuff (2015). *Fears cyberbullying will criminalise children*. Retrieved from: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/digital-living/67487381/fears-cyberbullying-law-will-criminalise-children.html>

Kairaranga

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