

LIFE PASSAGES AND LEARNING PATHS

Educators have an important role in applying developmental insights from longitudinal studies, writes LYALL LUKEY, Convener ELF17.

Why are young people like they are? What can we do so they can do better? With the launch of Oranga Tamariki (the Ministry for Vulnerable Children), these are timely questions for those in the education sector.

While the early childhood years are crucial for facilitating the development of healthy and engaged adults who become lifelong learners there are other key life passages where timely intervention can make a huge difference.

In collaboration with others working with children, youth and families via Social Welfare, Health, Justice and Community agencies, educators have great opportunities to positively influence the choice of individual learning and earning pathways and to draw on support networks when intervention is needed.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Education leaders from across the learning spectrum from early childhood to post-tertiary education are in a pivotal position to apply developmental insights from internationally renowned New Zealand longitudinal studies.

These include the University of Otago's Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study founded by Dr Phil Silva and the University of Auckland's Growing Up in New Zealand study conducted by the Centre for Longitudinal Research, University of Auckland, headed by Ass. Prof. Susan Morton.

The pioneering Dunedin study is internationally renowned and examines the progressive results of ongoing research into the lives of 1,000 New Zealanders born 46 years ago in Dunedin.

The Auckland study is keeping tabs on the growth and development of initially 6,000+ children from a

variety of ethnicities. The study aims to improve the lives of their generation and answer the fundamental question: What makes us who we are?

EDUCATION LEADERS FORUM 2017

Both Dr Silva and Prof. Morton are key speakers at Education Leaders Forum 2017 Life Passages & Learning Paths, to be held in Rotorua on 23 & 24 August.

"Why can't they be like we were, perfect in every way? What's the matter with kids today?"

Kids – Bye Bye Birdie

ELF17 is about making a positive difference to individuals, their families and their communities by helping participants understand life shaping developmental and environmental factors and path changers in the journey from infancy to adulthood.

Better life trajectories for individuals motivated by personal goals which are shaped by their passions and

skills, add up to better outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

Other speakers at ELF 17 include Dr Reremoana Theodore, Co-Director, National Centre for Lifecourse Research; Dr John Langley, Strategic Lead- Evidence Informed Practice, Oranga Tamariki (the Ministry for Vulnerable Children); Ass. Prof. Nicola Atwool, Social Work Programme, Dept. of Sociology, University of Otago; Dr Craig Jones, Dep. Sec. Evidence, Data and Knowledge, Ministry of Education; Jackie Talbot, General Manager, Secondary-Tertiary Group, Ministry of Education.

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ELF17 is supported by the Ministry of Education and the Wright Family Foundation.

More Information: www.smartnet.co.nz ★



Dr Phil Silva.



Ass. Prof. Susan Morton.



Dr Reremoana Theodore.



EDUCATION LEADERS FORUM 17

23 & 24 AUGUST ROTORUA

LIFE PASSAGES & LEARNING PATHS

- *Growth Trajectories
- *Support Networks
- *Life/Work Skills
- *Environmental Factors
- *Timely Interventions
- *Earning Pathways

- » **Why are young people like they are?**
- » **What can we do so they can do better?**

Making a positive difference to the life outcomes of individuals by understanding key developmental and environmental factors and identifying potential path changers in the journey from infancy to adulthood.

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