

NZEI Early Childhood and Support Staff Scholarship: Final Report February 2023

Candidate name: Rachel Foster

Project title and purpose: Exploring the sector specific needs and expectations of recently-appointed leaders in ECE in NZ from a lived experience perspective.

Project purpose: The purpose of the project was to explore the preparation, support, and current learning needs of recently-appointed leaders in NZ ECE contexts. The purpose of my research was to contribute to the ECE sector understanding of the professional learning needs of recently-appointed leaders.

Achievements aligned with the proposal as submitted

In August 2022 I presented the progress of my research to my final year review panel. Following this 20-minute presentation, I refined my model on addressing the support and learning needs of recently appointed leaders. I have further developed all chapters of my thesis and have been working on the connecting threads between chapters to ensure that my overall thesis forms a cohesive document. All chapters will be going to my supervisor soon for review and feedback on how to strengthen the chapters for submission. The analysis processes involved within my study have supported me in theorising the requirements for addressing the support and learning needs of recently appointed leaders.

Research findings and/or a detailed summary of completion of study

I am currently working on editing and finalising the chapters to finish my thesis by the middle of the year. The analysis processes involved within my study have supported me in theorizing the requirements for addressing the support and learning needs of recently appointed leaders. My findings are represented through four concepts and two principles for supporting the learning needs of recently appointed. Together with the main claim, the concepts and principles form my theorisation of my research.

Liaison/interaction with NZEI Te Riu Roa members and/or community groups

I have had many conversations with my colleagues about my research of the course of the scholarship period. I presented my research in December 2022 at the Australian Catholic University, Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education annual research symposium. The theme of the symposium was: Learning-Rich Leadership for Quality Improvement in Early Childhood Education.

Personal comment

Being able to have days off work to focus on my doctoral work was helpful. They allowed me to spend dedicated time working on and further developing my research. I have thoroughly enjoyed the process of doctoral study and am fortunate to have had additional time off work to through this scholarship to work on my thesis.