



**Te Puni Kōkiri**  
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

## Ngai Māori me Ngā Hua o te Mātauranga *Benefits of Education for Māori*



### KEY FACTS

- Māori have shown a steady increase in educational attainment in recent years, with nearly 200,000 Māori holding secondary or tertiary qualifications in 2006.
- Māori with higher levels of qualifications, particularly those with tertiary level 4 qualifications or above, are more likely to be employed and earn higher incomes.
- Māori with higher levels of qualifications are more likely to live longer, with lower mortality rates found among Māori with post-school qualifications, than with school or no qualifications.

**Increased educational achievement by Māori contributes to improved wellbeing for individuals and whānau. This fact sheet presents information that illustrates the benefits of education in terms of employment, income and health.**

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Māori have shown a steady increase in educational attainment in recent years, with nearly 200,000 Māori holding secondary or tertiary qualifications<sup>1</sup> in 2006 (196,335 or 60.1 percent of the Māori population aged 15 years or older)<sup>2</sup>. More than 90,000 Māori hold tertiary qualifications: 21,153 or 6.5 percent of the Māori population aged 15 years or older hold tertiary level 1 to 3 qualifications, 47,016 (14.4 percent) hold level 4 to 6 qualifications and 23,070 (7.1 percent) hold qualifications at level 7 or above.

Increased educational achievement is reflected through the highest qualification attained by different age groups<sup>3</sup> in the Māori population. Younger Māori are more likely to have completed tertiary qualifications than previous generations: 37.2 percent of Māori aged 25 to 34 hold tertiary qualifications, compared with 18.9 percent of those aged 65 or older. This generational shift was also reflected in the proportion of Māori attaining

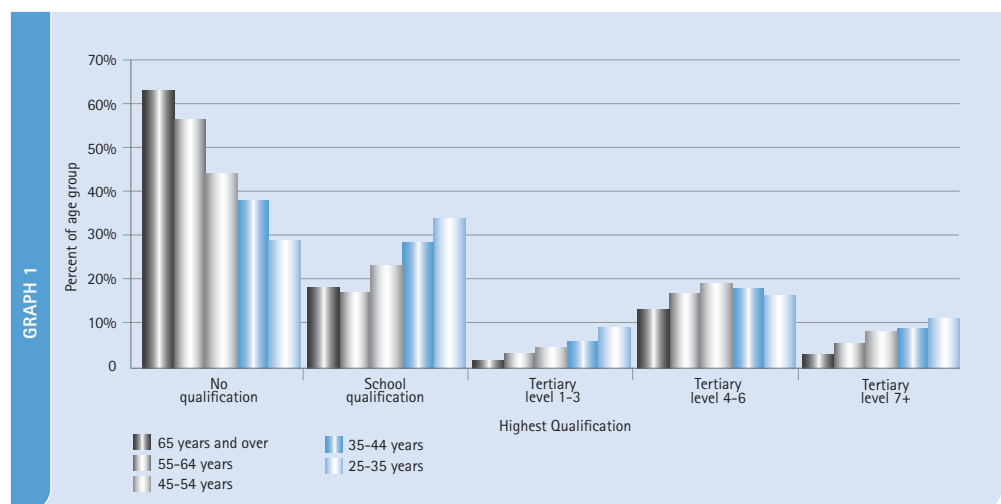
secondary qualifications, with 34.0 percent of 25 to 34 year olds holding secondary qualifications, versus 18.4 percent of those aged 65 or older.

### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Māori with higher levels of qualifications are more likely to be employed. This is illustrated by trends in the employment rate, which reflects both the willingness to participate in the labour force and the ability to gain employment. The employment rate was significantly higher for Māori with tertiary qualifications than for those with fewer or no qualifications: 76.2 percent of working age<sup>4</sup> Māori with tertiary qualifications were employed, compared with 66.8 percent of those with school qualifications, and 51.7 percent of those with no qualification in 2006.

Among Māori with tertiary qualifications, individuals with a higher level of tertiary qualification are more likely to be employed. In 2006, employment rates for Māori with tertiary qualifications at level 7 or above (85.2 percent) and levels 4 to 6 (77.1 percent) were higher than the rate for Māori with qualifications at levels 1 to 3 (64.6 percent).

**GRAPH 1: HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED BY DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS IN THE MĀORI POPULATION IN 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings



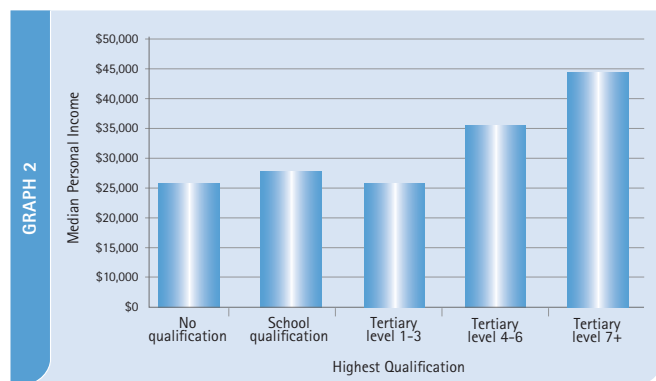


## EDUCATION AND INCOME

Māori with higher levels of qualifications are more likely to earn higher incomes. Median personal income<sup>5</sup> for working age Māori in employment was significantly higher for individuals with tertiary qualifications than for those with fewer or no qualifications in 2006: Māori with tertiary qualifications earned \$36,417 per annum, compared with \$27,800 for those with school qualifications, and \$26,000 for those with no qualification.

Among Māori with tertiary qualifications, individuals with a higher level of tertiary qualification are likely to earn more. In 2006, personal income for Māori with tertiary qualifications at level 7 or above (\$44,700 per annum) was \$9,000 higher than that for levels 4 to 6 (\$35,700) and \$18,300 higher than that for levels 1 to 3 (\$26,400). While there is a significant financial gain from achieving tertiary qualifications level 4 or above, there appears to be very little financial gain from achieving qualifications at levels 1 to 3 (\$26,400 versus \$26,000 for those with no qualification). However achieving level 1 to 3 qualifications can be an important pathway towards achieving higher level qualifications.

**GRAPH 2: MĀORI PERSONAL INCOME BY THE HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED IN 2006**



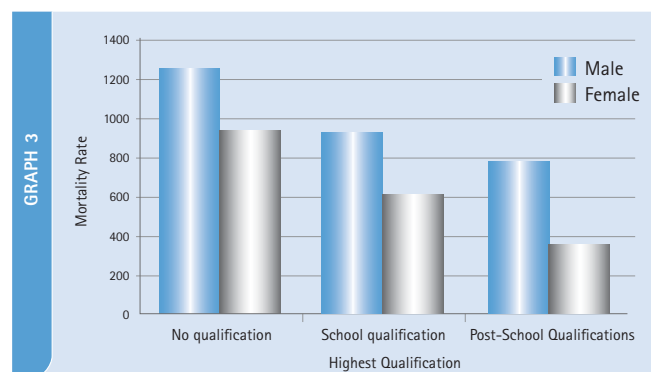
Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings

## EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Education has an influence on other aspects of wellbeing beyond employment and income. One such area is health. Māori with higher levels of qualifications were more likely to live longer over the period of 2001 to 2004. Mortality rates<sup>6</sup> measure the number of deaths in a population, providing a useful indicator of health that is directly related to life expectancy. Mortality rates among Māori were higher for males than females, but both males and females with higher levels of qualifications had significantly lower mortality rates.

Mortality rates for males with post school qualifications (792 deaths per 100,000) are 17.6 percent lower than for those with school qualifications (961 deaths per 100,000) and 36.9 percent lower than for those with no qualifications (1255 deaths per 100,000). These differences in mortality rates are even more pronounced for females, with rates for individuals with post school qualifications (360 deaths per 100,000) 42.0 percent lower than for those with school qualifications (621 deaths per 100,000) and 62.6 percent lower than for those with no qualifications (962 deaths per 100,000).

**GRAPH 3: MĀORI MORTALITY RATES BY THE HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED FROM 2001 TO 2004**



Source: Statistics New Zealand & University of Otago Wellington, New Zealand Census-Mortality Study (NZCMS) 2001-2004.

- 1 Tertiary qualifications have been classified using NCEA Levels to distinguish between different levels of achievement. Tertiary level 4-6 qualifications are trades certificates or diplomas whereas level 7+ qualifications are university level bachelors degrees or above.
- 2 In order to protect confidentiality, Statistics New Zealand's policy is to randomly round figures to base three. As a result, individual figures may differ slightly to those quoted in other publications.
- 3 Individuals under the age of 25 are not included as they are unlikely to have completed tertiary qualifications.
- 4 Working age is those 15 years of age or older.
- 5 Median personal income is the midpoint of the income distribution, meaning half of the population earn more, and half earn less, than this amount. Dollar amounts are gross and have not been inflation-adjusted.
- 6 Mortality rates used are age standardised annual mortality rates per 100,000 people calculated for the Māori population between 25 and 74 years of age. Mortality rates are calculated by anonymously and probabilistically linking census records with mortality records to create cohort studies. This process is not without error, thus mortality rates may vary by between 6 and 21 percent from the values quoted above.

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