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Maori in Governance: The Voices of Maori Trustees

A report presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Educational Administration

Martin Turner

January 2006

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Candidate's Statement

I certify that this report, submitted as part of the degree of Master of Educational Administration entitled **Maori in School Governance: The Voices of Maori Trustees** is the result of my own work except where otherwise acknowledged, and has not been submitted, in part or in full, for any other papers or degrees for which credit or qualifications have been granted.

Signed..........

(Martin Turner)

Date: January 2006

Abstract

While the education reforms of 1989 promised much for Maori in education, Maori membership on Boards of Trustees continues to be disproportionately low against that of non-Maori members. The governance role is significant in influencing the provision and outcomes of education for Maori students, but there has been little research into the experiences of Maori in school governance, or the factors that impact on successful partnerships between Maori and Pakeha on school boards.

This research project presents the governance stories of six Maori trustees from different mainstream primary schools. With reference to the Treaty of Waitangi, it explores Maori and Pakeha conceptions of partnership, and discusses the effectiveness of the education reforms in promoting and sustaining partnership with Maori at school governance level.

Through interviews conducted as part of this research, Maori trustees' understandings of their role in governance, the board's obligations to the Treaty of Waitangi, and the expectations placed on them as Maori by the board, and by their own Maori community, are explored.

This project highlights some of the complex issues Maori trustees face within a governance structure which is incongruous with traditional Maori principles of collectivism, and illuminates the duality of role many Maori negotiate as school trustees.

Acknowledgements

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Naku noa ki a koutou.

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