

Media Release

The Learning Centre Trust Report 2003

The latest "ICT in Schools" report - commissioned by The Learning Centre Trust of New Zealand - shows rising confidence about the impact ICT can have on quality teaching and learning.

The report indicates that **two thirds** of primary principals agreed or strongly agreed that ICT is already making major improvements to the quality of curriculum delivery at their school - up from 40% two years ago.

More principals also perceive that their teachers are more able to integrate ICT effectively in their teaching practices - up from about 20% two years ago, **to one third in 2003**.

In addition, the report indicates that the ratio of computers to students is now one computer for every **4** secondary/composite students, and one computer per 7 primary school students. "I'm pleased to see that the range of activities the Ministry has developed since the release of the ICT Strategy are making a real difference", said Trevor Mallard, Minister for Education. "In particular it's good to see a growth in confidence, and that online initiatives such as Te Kete Ipurangi www.tki.org.nz and LeadSpace www.leadspace.govt.nz are playing a major part in responding to the interests and needs of the teaching profession".

This year, the report, carried out for the Trust by research company BRC Marketing & Social Research, has included some new areas of research.

These include the role that **television** is playing in the learning environment. Approximately **two-thirds of all schools** reported that they use TV programmes for lesson delivery, either at the time of a live broadcast or pre-recorded on videotape.

"Our Charter includes featuring programmes that provide for the informational, entertainment and educational needs of children and young people. I am delighted that schools are factoring us into their teaching strategies" said Stephen Smith, TVNZ's Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Content. "We are committed to playing an ongoing role in supporting the needs of New Zealand schools".

Another area covered by the report was **community involvement and ICT**. 68% of secondary schools and 20% of primary schools surveyed offered community access to their ICT equipment. Moreover, the report found that 41% of secondary/composite schools were considering allowing access, as were 29% of primary.

"With the growth of student-centred collaborative and elearning environments, I believe there are important new opportunities for schools to develop learning partnerships with their communities" said Learning Centre Trust chairman, David Copeland. "In opening up their facilities to the community, they are enabling the learning space to extend beyond the walls of the school".

Other important findings in the report include

- **All schools can be described as being online** in that all have access to the Internet. Overall, schools reported 80% or more of their computers were connected to the Internet.
- **More schools are networked**, as a total of 66% (cf. 49% in 2001) of schools can be described as "fully networked" (80% or more classrooms linked).
- **Nearly all principals** were aware of the Ministry of Education's resource LeadSpace. At least seven-in-ten principals utilised the web site 'monthly, or less' with at least one-quarter accessing the site 'at least weekly.'
- **Increasing numbers of schools now have web site home pages**, with 83% of secondary/composite schools reporting they have a web presence. More often, these home pages are to promote the school and its activities.

"The ICT in Schools report is an important longitudinal study which began in 1993. It provides really useful benchmarking information that is of great value to the education sector," said David Copeland, Chairman of the Learning Centre Trust. "The Trust is grateful to corporate sponsors asnet Technologies Ltd, Community Employment Group in the Department of Labour, Compaq/Hewlett Packard (HP), Microsoft, Television New Zealand (TVNZ) and the Ministry of Education for their support of this research activity.

The Trust, made up of representatives from leading education organisations CWA New Media (www.cwa.co.nz), Multi Serve Education Trust (www.multiserve.co.nz) and Zwimpfer Communications, has been active in the education sector for over four years.

"The Learning Centre Trust of New Zealand is pleased to be able to sponsor this initiative and to continue to support our commitment to bringing quality information to the education sector."

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