

WHOSE SPEAK? THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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OVERVIEW

- Where I'm from
- Community Liaison role
- Problems with language
- Good practice



COMMUNITY LIAISON POSITION

- Networking and information sharing position within community
- Hands-on involvement in community development



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES

- Building relationships – trust and integrity
- Listening, boundaries, expectations, motivations, long-term commitment
- Acknowledging and recognising power dynamics
- Language as a tool of power

We make our relationships by talk, all our institutions, all our roles.

Greg Dening

POWER OF LANGUAGE

- Different cultures / different languages
- Potential for misunderstanding
- Tool of access to opportunities and resources
- Issues in ethnically diverse communities

TERTIARY EDUCATION STRATEGIES:

Develop the skills New Zealanders need for our knowledge society.

This recognises that we will need high level generic skills in much of the populace, and more highly specialist skills in areas of comparative advantage, for New Zealand to accelerate its transformation into a knowledge society.

Tertiary Education Commission – Draft Ethnic Responsiveness Strategy 2005-2008 and beyond

If you write like porridge you will think like it, and the other way around. And if you have to read porridge all the time you may well begin to speak it.

Don Watson, Death Sentence

GOOD PRACTICE
AVOIDING SPEAKING PORRIDGE

PART 1: WHAT WE SAY – CONTENT

- Being mindful of language
- Translating
- Simplifying without talking down
- Using relevant examples
- Being clear

Clarity is a necessary but not a sufficient condition: one can be clear and boring, clear and useless, clear and untruthful, clear and vulgar.

Primo Levi

GOOD PRACTICE
AVOIDING SPEAKING PORRIDGE

PART 2: HOW WE SAY IT – PROCESS

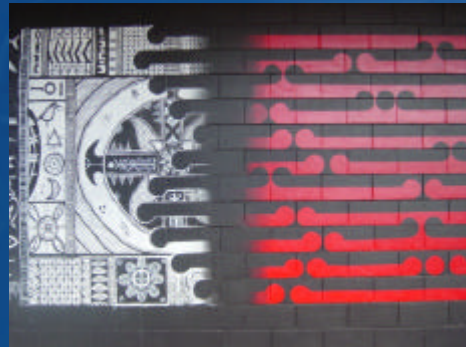
- Who you are
- Where you're from
- Why you're there
- What you want

GOOD PRACTICE
AVOIDING SPEAKING PORRIDGE

PART 3: TALK TO THE PORRIDGE
PRODUCERS

- Challenge language of bureaucracy
- Suggest and use alternative language

Why use a big word when a diminutive would suffice?



The TEC will enhance its current provision to ethnic communities by including in evaluations of tertiary education programmes and initiatives an examination of their relevance, accessibility and usefulness to people of ethnic communities.

Tertiary Education Commission – Draft Ethnic Responsiveness Strategy 2005-2008 and beyond

Interaction between these stakeholder groups and the Institute has seen the development of the approach to stair casing into programmes from multiple entry points, the graduate capability statement developed in partnership with industry, the applied and current nature of the programmes under the guidance of a vigilant advisory structure and the innovative work with schools in aligning secondary and tertiary curriculum.

MIT Charter

There are also everyday, practical policy issues to address, including the need to recognise and resource the roles of “strategic brokers”, to enable community networks and forums to achieve better “mandated representation”, and to support better co-ordinated action around shared outcome indicators.

Building Better Contexts for Partnership and Sustainable Local Collaboration. David Craig

