Dissemination of TIMSS 2006/07 as a trend study in New Zealand

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TIMSS – New Zealand speaks

- TIMSS cycles
  - 2 years reflect southern hemisphere timeline

- Year levels for assessment
  year 5 & year 9 (ie 4th & 8th grades)
  - year 9 first year of specialist maths & science teaching

- TIMSS or TIMMS
  Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
New Zealand’s participation in TIMSS

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<td>Year 9 (8th Grade)</td>
<td>1994/95</td>
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<td>2002/03</td>
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Mean science achievement 1994 to 2006

Mean mathematics achievement 1994 to 2006
Impact of TIMSS 1994

- Raised concerns about mathematics and science education
- Mathematics and Science Taskforce established
- Focus on mathematics led to Numeracy Development Projects
Mean science achievement 1994 to 2006

Mean mathematics achievement 1994 to 2006
Trend 1994 to 2002

- 2002 release celebrated increases in mathematics and science achievement
- Particularly strong improvements among ethnic minorities
- Numeracy Development Projects taken credit, although only small scale implementation
Timing of 2006 TIMSS release (Dec 2008)

- November 2008 – what’s gone before
  - new government, after 9 years of previous administration
  - an annual national education research conference
    ie. news / data fatigue

- December 2008 – what’s coming up
  - schools close for summer holiday
  - Christmas – ho ho ho!

Stage set for a low key release / reception?
Mean science achievement 1994 to 2006

Mean mathematics achievement 1994 to 2006
Bullying ‘second highest in world’

One in 3 Kiwi kids say they are victims

MARTIN KAY

KIWI children have reported the second highest incidence of bullying in the world, according to a major international report.

But the primary school teachers’ union is urging caution over the findings, which show New Zealand second only to Taiwan when it comes to children saying they have been hit, teased, stolen from or picked on.

Educational Institute president Frances Nelson said New Zealand had a high-profile focus on bullying, meaning Kiwi children were more likely to disclose incidents.

The Trends In International Mathematics and Science Study, which covered the equivalent of Year 5 pupils in nearly 40 countries, including 5000 from New Zealand, found Kiwi children reported incidences of bullying behaviour at twice the international average.
TIMSS 2006 science focus

- Concerns centred on science achievement and engagement
  - Results from National Education Monitoring Project (NEMP) for 2007 study echoed the same concerns

- Drop in achievement accompanied by significant drop in teaching hours

- Think piece: “A focus on science”
TIMSS 2006 mathematics focus

- Surprised by a lack of improvement
  - “Numeracy Development Projects has not been given enough time to imbed?”

- Although results mirrored NEMP

- Researchers observed that
  - TIMSS framework has higher expectations than NZ curriculum
  - Many NZ students not meeting curriculum expectations
How does PISA fit?

- NZ did well in PISA, but not in TIMSS (or PIRLS)
- In 2006 TIMSS year 9 implementation in NZ gave way to PISA 2006
“Both of these [TIMSS and PISA] surveys provide important, but different, insights into education around the world. Policymakers and researchers are fortunate to have access to both surveys for purposes of international benchmarking and understanding best practice.”

Gary Phillips

Future of TIMSS in New Zealand

Commitment to continual participation

A plead: please keep barriers to participation low and manageable so we can continue to participate
Thank you!