

# Appendix E: Key Competency Student Focus Group: 2006

**(5–8 male and female students)**

**(2nd Draft)**

INTRO SELF. **Student year level** 5 \_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_

**Number of:** **Female students:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Male students:** \_\_\_\_\_

(DRAW location map of student names on separate paper)

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ I'm a researcher from NZCER (NZCER is a place that does research about schools and learning). Your teachers are trying out some new teaching ideas, and we are visiting your school to talk to students and teachers about what has been happening at your school. (I'll tell you more about these new ideas later.)

Today I'd like to talk to you about your learning. I'm really interested in hearing your ideas and opinions.

I'll be using the things you tell me to write a report and to give feedback to your teachers.

- I am going to record this discussion. I will also take some notes. Your answers to the questions will be kept confidential. This means I won't use your name to discuss what you say with anyone else in your school or in the reports that I write. Do you have any questions about this?
- You don't have to be part of this group if you don't want to, and you don't have to answer all of the questions if you don't want to.

*A couple of "house" rules*

- To respect each other, it's important that you don't talk about what other people have said in this group to other students or teachers. So what's said in this group stays in the group. Is everyone okay about that?
- So that it is easier for me to take notes, if one person is talking, could we let them finish before the next person talks? Tell me if you would like to talk next. Thanks.

Before we start, I'll tell you the main things I'll be asking you about. These are:

- The things that you enjoy about school;
- The work you have just been doing on \_\_\_\_\_; and
- The things that do and don't help you to learn.

You'll have a chance at the end to add anything else you might want to say, or ask me questions.

## General learning at school

1. From all the things you've done at school this year so far, what are the things you've **enjoyed** the most?
2. From all the things you've done at school this year so far, what are the things you've **learnt the most** from? (What did you learn?)

*The Key Competencies (linked to school focus)*

### **Give out student response sheet**

In the unit your class did about \_\_\_\_\_

- Kelburn: Science Fair/Commonwealth Games (KC = some –check with school??)
- Karori: Past; present, and future (“Past” KC = RO, PC)
- Central Normal: T1, Healthy Choices, KC=MS; T2, Our Place, KC= PC
- NEVS: Stars on stage (KC = Managing self)
- Hillcrest rich task: Physical activity/Project Energize (KC = Thinking+PC)
- Takapuna: KC journals, cycle tour, unknown destinations (KC = all)

you were doing some learning about the Key Competenc(ies) \_\_\_\_\_. Here is a definition of these KC(s) to remind you.

### **PLACE and READ OUT KC prompt card(s) relating to the KC focused on**

- *Relating to others (RO)*
  - *Participating and contributing (PC)*
  - *Managing your self and your learning (MS)*
  - *Thinking (T)*
  - *Using language, symbols, and text (ULST)*
3. Please write an example on your sheet of how you demonstrated this KC as part of the unit your class did.

*(THEN ask students to share their example with the group....)*

4. Write an example on your sheet of another time you used this competency, at school or at home.

*(THEN ask students to share their new example with the group...)*

5. Is the way you are learning the KC different or similar to the way you have learnt about other things at school?

**PLACE all prompt cards**

6. These are the five KCs. Why do you think these things might be important for young people to develop? Write an example on your sheet.

*(THEN ask students to share their new example with the group...)*

## Authenticity

7. Could you tell me about some of the ways your teachers set up “real” tasks for you to do at school or with people in the community? (like working on environmental projects or making decisions about things that happen at school.)
  - What are some of the “real” tasks you do?
  - Could you tell me what sorts of things you learn from these?

## Learning how to learn

8. What are the things you do at school that help you to understand about **how you or other people learn**? (Like you might be doing journal reflections, setting learning goals for yourself, or learning together in groups).
9. Are there any other things you could be doing that could help you to have more understanding about how to learn?
10. From all the things you’ve done at school this year, what are the things you’ve **enjoyed the least or learnt the least** from?

## Summary

11. On the back of your sheet could you choose one face to show how this year had gone for you overall and write the reasons for your choice.

- Does anyone want to share their reasons for their choice?

*Rating on response sheet*

1 Very well



2 Well



3 Okay



4 Not well



5 Not very well



# Student Sheet

School name.....  
.....

1) In our study on.....

I showed the Key Competency of:

- Managing self
- Relating to others
- Participating and contributing
- Thinking
- Using language, symbols, and texts

Tick one or more

when I

.....

.....

.....

2) Another time (at school or at home) I have shown this competency is when I...

.....

3) The Key Competencies are important for young people to develop because...

.....

.....

.....

4 a) How is this year at school going for you? (circle one)

Very well



Well



Okay

Not well



Not very well



4 b) Please give reasons for your choice.

.....  
.....

Is there anything else you would like to say about learning at your school?

Thank you very much for your time.  
Do you have any questions?

