Interview Synthesis Domain Two

# Cultural Responsiveness

Questions on the cultural contexts of teaching practice for specialist teachers of vision were designed to first examine markers in the individuals journey towards cultural competence and then to enquire how this was seen in their teaching practice and issues that may have arisen.

## Key issue: Multi Cultural Society

Working with a large number of diverse cultural groups was highlighted as bringing a challenge in attaining a depth of understanding of each group. This was especially true for interview candidates working in Auckland. Different cultural understandings of the role of families and professionals and also the causes of disability and the place of a person with disability in society and community were highlighted. The need to use a translator to ensure clear communication was mentioned as being a help in some circumstances, such as, a medical appointment or an Individual Plan, but a hindrance at other times, such as a home visit.

## Developing Cultural Competence

Specialty Teachers of Vision examined their own family life and credited much of their concepts of cultural responsiveness to their parents and teachers. Cultural responsiveness was shown to be a behavior learnt from experiences. The influence of professional development and reflective practice both challenged and reinforced cultural knowledge. Professional development had been provided by Ngati Kapo, RNZFB, BLENNZ, as well as sought individually.

## Key Commitments in Bi Cultural Competence

Specialty teachers of Vision all held personal and professional commitment to Te Tiriti O Waitangi, and felt that knowledge and understanding of Maori world view was essential in their teaching practice. Additional considerations in their practice were:

* To use both Te Reo and Tikanga appropriately with consideration to pronounciation,
* To ensure that programmes and practices are relevant to Maori learners,
* To facilitate access to relevant resources in Te Reo an accessible formats,
* To include family and whanau aspirations,
* To have consideration and respect for different cultural values.
* To develop strong relationships with Maori families and their Tamariki.