Dr Rebecca Jesson
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Rebecca is Associate Director of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre at the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Auckland. Rebecca’s expertise involves leading Design Based Research processes that result in improvement for schools seeking to address disparity of outcomes in literacy. She works in research-practice partnerships, supporting schools to analyse evidence of student achievement alongside measures of teaching, parent, student and teacher voice. Combined, these sources of evidence provide shared hypotheses about changes to provision that will result in improving learning processes and outcomes for students. Her approach requires analysing variation in educational outcomes and teaching processes to build new understandings in particular contexts. In this way, the solving on the ground problems contributes to theoretical and empirical understandings about literacy learning. Rebecca’s approach is to seek out what is effective for groups of students within specific contexts. With colleagues at the Woolf Fisher Research Centre, Rebecca has contributed to a model of successful Design Based Intervention which we call the ‘Learning Schools Model’. Implementing and refining this approach the team have worked closely with over 85 schools in New Zealand, 20 in Parramatta, Australia, and am currently working in 45 schools in three Pacific Nations.

Company: The University of Auckland

Qualifications: B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.

English Medium