



## It's about all of us

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**Friday 25 October to Sunday 27 October 2019**

**University of Auckland, Faculty of Education and Social Work (Epsom Campus)**

The 2019 Inclusive Education Summit invites us to meet, work and think together: People from marginalised groups, their families and whānau, allies and accomplices, researchers, students, educators and educational leaders, advocacy organisations. Our aim is to consider how education systems can be part of a much wider agenda - the building of inclusive societies. "It's about all of us" is a call to action.

The Inclusive Education Summit – TIES – is an annual international conference, in recent years hosted in New Zealand and Australia. The first conference was held in 2013, meeting as a Disability Studies in Education (DSE) conference and hosted by the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. A core principle of the DSE conference was "Nothing about us without us." This was a conference for disabled activists, allies and accomplices; families, advocates, educators and researchers. In 2014 Victoria University in Melbourne hosted the next DSE conference. At the end of the 2014 conference participants were enthusiastic about an annual event that provided opportunity for activists, families, educators and researchers from throughout the Pacific and Southeast Asian nations to come together and discuss how best to promote inclusion in our communities and education systems. In 2015 the inaugural Inclusive Education Summit was held at Victoria University in Melbourne. This first TIES conference continued the ethos and mandate of DSE: "Nothing about us without us."

In subsequent conferences the mandate has been to better understand the structures and mechanisms of exclusion evident in colonisation, ableism, sexism, homophobia, racism and the intersections of these and other forms of oppression. The 2019 TIES conference theme, "It's about all of us", honours New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's call for change and asks participants to consider what still needs to be done in order for education systems to be part of a much wider agenda focused on the building of inclusive societies.

On 15 March 2019, Christchurch, and New Zealand experienced the terrible loss of 51 lives through an act of terrorism. Prime Minister Ardern's response to this tragedy was underscored by hope. Hers was an affirmative leadership. Her aim was to draw the nation together, rejecting exclusion and hatred and focusing instead on respect for diversity, care, love and support for each other.

The theme for TIES 2019 acknowledges the pervasive 'them-us' mentality in education that continues to exclude and disadvantage some children and young people. We invite participants to reimagine any aspect of our education systems through the lens of "Us", where educational settings are for all of us, about all of us, where we are all working together to transform education systems towards inclusion. The phrase 'They are Us' became a galvanising symbol for change towards a more inclusive society.

The tragic terrorist events of 15 March in Christchurch, are a reminder of the responsibility educational settings (in this country and elsewhere) have to contribute to a socially cohesive society; a society where our common humanity and diversity in all its forms is valued. Educational settings must be places where children, young people, families and whānau, and educators together value the experiences of others whose lives and circumstances may be very different from their own. It is therefore vital that education is inclusive. In his think piece prepared for UNESCO and the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report , Roger Slee (2018) urges the reader to consider the contribution that education can make to caring, fair, and equitable societies. He asks three questions that are integral to the transformation of education systems towards inclusion, "What kind of world do we want our children and young people to live in... what kind of [early childhood education,] schools and classrooms are required to achieve that world... when we look at our schools – who is in, who is out, who decides and what are we going to do about it? (p. 9).

This call for proposals invites you to submit proposals from a variety of sources and in a variety of formats:

- Sources: academic/research presentation (full peer review); practitioner paper (full peer review); lived experience (feedback on proposal)
- Format: for paper presentations (10 minutes), posters, performances, workshops or panels (three or four papers of 10 minutes each).

Proposals should

- be between 150 to 300 words (not including any references)
- clearly indicate how they address the conference theme "It's about all of us" and development of inclusive education/inclusive societies.