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Participation and equity in higher education: are we going back to the future?

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Abstract

This article provides an overview of policy developments related to participation and equity in higher education from the 1960s to the present. It examines the shift from a focus on participation in the 1960s to a focus on equity in the 1970s and 1980s. It then explores the role of higher education in the three countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. It explores the role of higher education in the three countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. It explores the role of higher education in the three countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

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unless there is a change of Government and/or pressures from rapidly increasing enrolments produce policy change.

Keywords: equity higher education access widening participation policy

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Notes

1. 'Higher education' is used differently across countries. In this article it is used to refer primarily to universities, though some policy developments may include, for example, further education in England or the whole tertiary (post-school) sector in New Zealand.
2. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed by Māori and the British Crown in 1840. It is the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand.
3. The indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand.
4. People of various ethnicities in Aotearoa New Zealand have their own distinct ethnic heritage.
5. Pasifika refers to people from the Pacific Islands.



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