

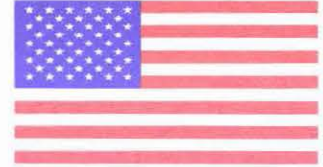
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New Zealand



Australia



United States of America

**Access to Tertiary Education
Institutions in Six Nations:
New Zealand, Australia, the United
States of America, the United Kingdom,
Sweden and Japan.**

A Comparative Study of Funding.

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in Social Policy
at Massey University

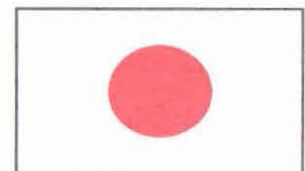
Darryl Clinton Bengé
1997



United Kingdom



Sweden



Japan

ABSTRACT

This project is an examination of international experience, to determine what tertiary funding, and student aid policies, New Zealand should employ to enhance participation of traditionally under-represented groups. It consist of a comparative policy analysis of five other nations with comparable tertiary institutions and equality of access objectives: Australia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Japan.

Through analysing the experiences of these countries and examining relevant research, it was confirmed that significant differences exist between the tertiary participation patterns of privileged groups of people and the participation patterns of lower socio-economic groups, ethnic minorities and women. Lower socio-economic groups and ethnic minorities are internationally under-represented in the tertiary education populace. In most countries studied women have numerical parity with their male cohorts, however women are proportionately over-represented in part-time and extramural studies. Of those disadvantaged students that do access tertiary education, many are concentrated in courses with lenient entry pre-requisites and mediocre anticipated financial returns.

The thesis concludes that the participation rates of these historically disadvantaged groups will not improve unless:

- (i) the government adopts the primary role in funding tertiary education;
- (ii) tuition fees are abolished, or at least made moderate and uniform; and
- (iii) the student aid is enhanced, particularly the student maintenance grant.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to dedicate this thesis to my spouse (Frances) and two children (Kelsi and Petra), for I could not have completed it without their support and sacrifice.

Thanks to staff in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, especially my lecturers Christine Cheyne, Andrew Trlin, Stuart Birks, Gary Buurman and Martin Sullivan.

Also thanks to Chris Eichbaum for his advice at the commencement of this research project.

Finally, a special appreciation goes to my thesis supervisor - Christine Cheyne for her time, support and enlightenment. The end product of this thesis has been much enhanced from her contribution.

GLOSSARY

To avoid being plagued by semantics, special attention has been given to utilising words in their common or general meaning. However, a word is highlighted (when it first appears), if a specific meaning is attached to it and the definition is provided here in the glossary.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Indigenous people of Australia.

Access: The opportunity or right of approach to a place. Access must be access to quality if it is not to be, and be seen as, a deception and a new form of discrimination (Moodie 1991:9).

Ainu: Indigenous Caucasian people of Japan who have their own language and culture.

Awards: Includes degrees, diplomas, certificates or qualifications as per the New Zealand statute - the Education Amendment Act 1990.

Blacks: Persons of African-American origin of the United States of America.

Burakumin people: A discriminated caste of Japanese people, with origins that date back to medieval times.

Caucasian: A broad subdivision of people with a predominance of light skin colour. Caucasians are commonly referred to as whites or as people of European extraction.

Comparative Policy Analysis: The research technique that studies decisions and activities, by the state and non-statutory groups or institutions, that influence people's life chances, distribution and power, by contrasting different countries, communities or systems.

Deferment: Temporary postponement of payments on loans.

Discipline: An identifiable area of study or specialisation.

Efficiency: Maximum output yielded from the allocated resources.

Enrolment: Registered to partake in tertiary education during the academic year.

Equivalent Full-Time Student Formula (EFTS): The funding formula of that name that is based on the student workload that would normally be carried out by a full-time student in a single year pursuant to the Education Amendment Act 1990.

Externalities: The accumulated external benefits and costs which occur when one party's action provides a "gain" to someone else without receiving payment, or inflicts "harm" on another without compensating them.

Extramural studies: Provision of courses without the student requiring to attend the classes or lectures. (Another term for undertaking tertiary study by correspondence).

Hispanic: Persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban origin.

Participation rate: The proportion of persons of a specified group who partake in tertiary education.

Perturbations: Variations in results from the impact of a large number of unknown unmeasured forces.

Student aid: Financial assistance and maintenance payments provided to tertiary students. This does not include cadetships (where students are bonded to, or employed by, the sponsoring organisation) or prizes (academic or otherwise).

Student loan: An advance to students that is required to be repaid. Income Contingent Repayments entail loan repayments being linked to a former student's income, in addition to the loan amount.

Student maintenance: Non-repayable government financial benefits to students, aimed at contributing to the student's costs of living.

Studiemedel: Financial aid for Swedish students in tertiary education.

Tertiary education institutions: The formal post-compulsory educational institutions that present recognised qualifications (certificates, diplomas, degrees etc.) such as universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and wananga.

Universal education: The provision of adequate educational opportunities and access to higher education for all young people who can benefit from tertiary education, and in particular to encourage those from underprivileged groups to attend tertiary institutions or undertake tertiary studies.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

The following table provides details of the exchange rate of the Australian, USA, UK, Swedish and Japanese currencies in relation to the New Zealand dollar, as at the close of 4 November 1996.

Exchange Rates

Country	Currency	Exchange Rate in relation to New Zealand dollar
New Zealand	\$1	\$1
Australia	A\$1	0.89
USA	US\$1	0.78
UK	£ 1 (pound)	0.43
Sweden	SEK 1(krona)	4.60
Japan	¥ 1 (yen)	80.20

Source: *New Zealand Herald*, (5 November 1996: C8).