

## **Conference Abstract**

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 23-26 June, 2005: Reflective Practice – The key to innovation in international education**

#### **Reflective Analysis and Vision (RAV)**

Helen Panayiodou, Faculty of Education University of Auckland  
h.panayiodou@auckland.ac.nz

Statistics tell us that there is an overall decrease in the number of international students attending schools in New Zealand. The average decrease is 11% though some schools have dropped as much as 65% whereas a few schools have increased their intake of international students. Why?

This question has become even more urgent as schools deal with fluctuations in numbers of students and have invested time and money into developing language departments and employing staff to teach students. One may respond to the question with: NCEA, the rising dollar value, the negative publicity of international schools in New Zealand or the difficult entry requirements to tertiary education, all are valid. The New Zealand education industry has become competitive and in a competitive environment quality becomes the paradigm. Schools are increasingly required to look closely at what they have to offer these students.

This presentation is an introduction of a reflective process that may be applied to schools. It is a process involving analysing the situation at your school, putting problems and concerns into perspective and considering what needs to be done. The process involves a SWOT analysis, data collection and a gap analysis. The benefits include:

- schools taking responsibility of/own the reflective process
- data is already in the schools
- hard data replaces assumptions
- comprehensive overview of the situation
- opportunities for whole school input
- it is an easy model to facilitate and duplicate