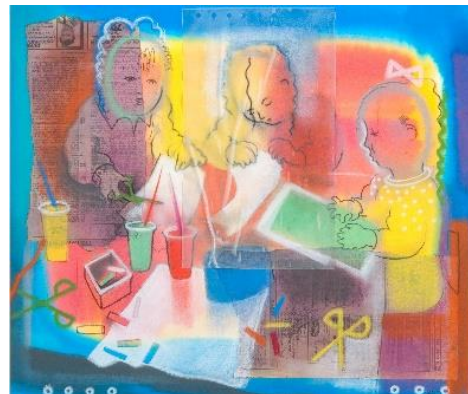




## Tony Holmes Early Childhood Education Fellowship



The Tony Holmes Fellowship is for an Early Childhood Education practitioner working in an early learning setting. The Fellowship is intended to allow the recipient time for research and reflection, leading to recommendations for pedagogical or policy change that would benefit the early childhood sector in New Zealand.

The Fellowship is awarded annually, and the practitioner will be based at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, School of Education associated with the Institute for Early Childhood Studies. It is for a period of up to three months depending on the amount of funds available. The award is to be used towards a stipend, travel and accommodation, and includes access to the University library and a study space. The Fellowship is open to current practitioners with preference given to proposals in the field of **nurturing language skills, including skills in more than one language, and especially te reo Māori and Pasifika languages.**

Those **eligible to apply** are teachers, leaders, and educators from all parts of the early childhood sector and who are based in Aotearoa New Zealand

Examples of those who could apply include (but are not restricted to):

- A practising ECE kaiako who would like to research an exemplary or innovative practice in their setting and share the findings for the wider early childhood profession,
- An ECE educator, who has recently completed their Master's thesis and would like to pursue an emergent question from the findings
- An ECE teacher with a focused interest in an aspect of practice for nurturing language skills, especially for te reo Māori and Pasifika languages

The Fellowship is offered for the purposes of:

- Preserving the memory of Tony Holmes as a passionate educator and advocate of high-quality early childhood education and care.
- Providing an opportunity for outstanding early childhood educators to take time out from their regular work to reflect on and research a topic related to nurturing language skills.

- Promoting ongoing study and research on the practice, organisation, and philosophy of early childhood education.

The criteria for selection will include:

- The proposed area of study provides a clear rationale that demonstrates relevance to the purposes of the fellowship.
- The activities to be undertaken while at VUW are well-designed and consistent with the stated rationale for the proposed study.
- The proposed research and activities demonstrate potential to benefit the early childhood education sector in New Zealand, including through a clear plan for dissemination.
- Applicant has relevant experience in the area of study and demonstrated ability to gain professional benefit from the Fellowship.

Please note that applications for the Tony Holmes Fellowship cannot include course fees for personal study for the recipient.

### **Application Process**

Please see the Institute for Early Childhood Studies website if you are interested in applying for this Fellowship - <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/education/our-connections/institute-early-childhood-studies>. A completed online application must be submitted by the closing date. The closing date for 2025 is 28 April 2025.

### **Selection Process of candidates**

Decisions made by the selection committee are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding those decisions. Recipients will agree to have their names and images published and be available for interviews with the media if required.

### **Selection Committee**

The decision-making panel will comprise:

- Janet Holmes or nominee
- Director of Institute for Early Childhood Studies or nominee
- Another Academic Staff member of the Institute for Early Childhood Studies