



In *Catching the Knowledge Wave*, Jane Gilbert argued that “We need to build people’s ability to work with others to produce new knowledge that solves authentic real-world problems.” (p.190). **Edge Work**, AUT’s Educational Futures network,¹ is now offering teachers and school leaders the opportunity to explore what this might look like for them.

References to collaboration, clusters, partnerships, networks and communities are everywhere in educational discussions today. However *really* collaborating is hard. It involves much more than sharing existing ideas and/or listening respectfully to others’ ideas – this usually just reinforces the status quo.

“Strong” collaborations provide space to critique and extend existing ideas. They also support participants’ growth and development. Their purpose is to move ideas forward – *out* of the status quo. Doing this requires good relationships and robust, collegial debate. Most people find this challenging, but – eventually – empowering.

At Edge Work, we’re interested in supporting schools who want to work in this way.

Taking the role of “trusted outsider” we can facilitate your school’s discussion of the “real world” problem you want to work on.

This could be, for example, developing:

- a local curriculum for global citizens
- your school’s curriculum in a particular area (we have expertise in primary and secondary science, biology, mathematics, and technology/makerspace, as well as secondary English)
- an integrated curriculum
- authentic partnerships with the wider community
- leadership capability

but there are many other possibilities...

Our aim is to embed teacher learning in day-to-day practice, to support teachers to work together on issues that are important in your school, *not* to see PLD as an “add on” to practice.

Because every school is different, we negotiate the form this PLD will take with each school (or cluster of schools) individually. Our experience is that this kind of PLD works best when there is an on-going relationship with a facilitator over a period of at least a year. However, we do offer shorter “taster” sessions for schools interested in trying this out.

For more information on costs and availability – or just to find out more about the possibilities for your school, contact us at EdgeWork@aut.ac.nz

¹ See: <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/education/educational-futures>