

Neville M Blampied

Emeritus Professor

Brief Biography

Neville was born in Devonport early in the baby boom era. He started school in one of the two rooms of the Whananaki North school and continued schooling in various parts of Northland, where his father was a dairy farmer. He decided to become a psychologist after reading a book by Hans Eysenck and studied at the University of Auckland (1964-1969), graduating MSc in 1969 with a thesis on hippocampal functioning in rats. He did some summer work at Oakley Psychiatric Hospital. Appointed Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Canterbury in 1970, he remained there until retirement in mid-2020, despite at first intending to stay only three years. He initially taught what was then called Physiological Psychology, but increasingly switched to teaching Learning, which became a major focus of his teaching and research, later including cognitive-behaviour therapy. With Bill Black he began teaching a graduate course in Behaviour Modification in the early 1970's, continuing to teach updated/renamed versions of that course almost every year until 2022. Other courses he introduced to the Canterbury curriculum were Health Psychology and Family Psychology. His research also switched gradually from experimental to applied behaviour analysis projects, with a long-term interest in children's sleep disturbance (in collaboration with Karyn France, Jacki Henderson, and Laurie McLay, plus many wonderful graduate students). He has supervised over 100 thesis students and published 100+ academic papers. He served as Head of Department (2005 – 2012) and was National President of the Association of University Staff 2000-2001. He joined NZPsS in 1970 and was Director of Scientific Affairs 2004 - 2010. In retirement he continues to be active in research and supervision in Te Puna Toiora | Mental Health & Nutrition lab, and in the Goodnights programme developing and evaluating interventions for neurodiverse children and adolescents.