DARLENE MCLENNAN: For those who don't know my name is Darlene McLennan. My pronouns are she and her. I am the manager of the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training and I'm really excited by this session. It's great to have so many people. I think we had nearly a thousand people registered to attend this event. It is absolutely brilliant.

Very excited by this presentation. The session is the UDL Educator Pathway and the session is being closed captioned, which you can access through the CC button at the bottom of your screen. We also have captions available on a browser. So our wonderful Kylie will put that into the chat now. You can access them. We will ‑ feel free to chat with each other. It's been great seeing some of the conversations and sharing of resources and knowledge in our chat thing but if you are wanting to ask questions for the presenters, you can add that to the Q&A function. I think Annette was just saying she's probably also happy to have hands raised. I will leave that to her to kind of say at the beginning of her presentation. Now I'd like to hand over to Annette van Lamoen and Michael Grawe - and I have probably said that wrong, now that I’ve said so many words – sorry, Michael.

MICHAEL GRAWE: No worries at all.

DARLENE: I'm going to leave it with both of you and look forward to hearing your presentation.

ANNETTE VAN LAMOEN: Thank you, Darlene. Welcome, everyone, to our session on the UDL Educator Pathway. To start with, you've seen this before probably but just a bit of housekeeping. We'd love you to have your cameras on. We'd love to see your faces, but of course we fully understand if you can't have your camera on. It's entirely up to you. If you have questions like Darlene just said, you can put them in the Q&A, but if you have a burning question as we go, feel free to just raise your hands, put up your raised hand emoji because we don't mind answering your questions as we go. I'll just start ‑ we'll just get started by watching a very brief clip.

[VIDEO - gentle music playing in the background]

ANNETTE: E ngā mana, E ngā reo, E ngā iwi, E rau Rangatira mā, Nau mai, haere mai. To the various authorities, voices, peoples and leaders, welcome. We welcome you from Aotearoa New Zealand today. The clip we just played showed some images of our beautiful country. We pay tribute to the traditional custodians of our country and yours.

We'd also like to thank you for inviting us to join your symposium. It's a fantastic symposium and it's so good to be here. Thank you all for sharing the session with us today. In Aotearoa New Zealand, we like to start sessions such as these with a karakia, and a karakia is a tradition from the old Maori, the Maori world. Essentially, it's just a few words to ground people at the start of a meeting or a workshop to get people thinking about the session ahead and prepare for the session ahead. So I'll just say a karakia for this session.

E te hui, Whāia te mātauranga kia mārama, Kia whai take ngā mahi katoa, Tū māia, tū kaha, Aroha atu, aroha mai, Tātou ia tatou katoa. For this gathering, seek knowledge for understanding. Have purpose in all that you do. Stand tall, be strong. Let us show respect for each other.

My name is Annette van Lamoen, a bit of an unpronounceable surname, a bit like Michael. I'm a lady in my very early sixties. I have fair hair and brown eyes and, as you can probably hear, I'm originally from Holland but I've been in New Zealand for a long, long time. So I'm practically a Kiwi, I think. And I'd just like to introduce my colleague, Michael.

MICHAEL: Guten Tag. My name is Michael, also with an unpronounceable surname. It happens to be Grawe. Sorry, Darlene. I'm in my very, very, very late forties and at 196 tall, I barely fit into an airline seat. I am dressed in my favourite colour which is black and I have just started dyeing my hair grey. Behind me you will see my very fake image of my imaginary office - so you can't see all the cat toys, the mess in the background and the Auckland rain. As you might have guessed from my accent, I'm from Germany originally from a town called Hamelin, also known as the home of the Pied Piper. I have called Aotearoa New Zealand home for about 20 years working in tertiary education in teaching and advisory roles mostly in a PLD consultant for Ako Aotearoa and also the Professional Learning Manager at Pathways Awarua. That's a little bit about me. Back to you, Annette.

ANNETTE: Thank you, Michael. Let's have a look at what we're covering in this session. First, I will start by telling you a little bit about our organisation Ako Aotearoa, and what we do, and also why we developed the UDL educator pathway, and then Michael will show you the platform that we use for the pathway which is called Pathways Awarua, which is an interactive tool for educators and learners. He will also walk us through the pathway so you can see what it looks like. Of course, we'll have a Q&A session at the end.

So what you see on the screen is our team at Ako Aotearoa. Some of our colleagues here. Ako Aotearoa is New Zealand's national centre for tertiary teaching excellence and our main objective is to build educator capability for learner success. Michael and I are members of the Manako team. Manako is Aotearoa's language, literacy, numeracy and cultural capability program. It is a real mouthful so we’ve called it Manako for short.

Through our Manako program we provide a wide range of professional development offerings, such as workshops, and courses, and webinars, and resources, and research and communities of practice and much more. I would very briefly like to explain the meaning of the word “Ako” in Ako Aotearoa. Ako is a word from Maori from the Maori language. It reflects the reciprocal relationship between teaching and learning. Because as we all know, as teachers, when we are teaching, we are learning at the same time. If we think about our learners, as they are learning they are also teaching others including us. The best way to learn something is to teach it to others, so there's this intricate two‑way relationship between teaching and learning which is at the heart of what we do.

As part of our Manako program we've just developed a free self‑directed online course on UDL for educators who are new or relatively new to UDL. I'll just tell you the story of how and why we developed this pathway, which started a few years ago when I was asked to present at the inclusive pedagogy symposium in Montreal. It kind of made me realise that other countries were doing so much more in the UDL space than Aotearoa New Zealand, and that educators in New Zealand might need some support in getting started with UDL. Then I attended a webinar by Frederick Fovet, which was also hosted by ADCET ‑ this is a few years ago ‑ and that kind of really spurred me on to learn more myself about UDL. It made me think that it can be quite daunting as an educator to get started with UDL because there's so much to get your head around if you really want to understand the framework. So I thought I'm in this position where I know little about UDL so I might as well start unpacking the framework to learn more myself and create a resource for others to get to help others to get started with UDL. When you think about it, what we all know is that learners need to be ‑ they need to engage in lifelong learning to meet the ever-changing demands in society and the workplace but for us as educators, we need to be lifelong learners too.

But educators are such busy people and there's so many demands on their time, they're always trying to do what's best for their learners. So we felt it was really important for educators to be supported in this learning journey. So that's one of the reasons why we developed the pathway. The other reason was really that we feel strongly about creating more inclusive learning and teaching environments, and we have been doing some work in this space through our professional development offerings and our dyslexia friendly quality mark and our neurodiverse community of practice, but we felt we needed to do more and promote UDL as a tool for inclusion because we feel that one of the most critical aspects of UDL is that it helps you to identify barriers to learning before they arise. So it's all about identifying what could get in the way of learning. That's kind of the story of the development of the pathway.

What we see on the screen is a pathway map of the pathway with three collections that we've created. Essentially the pathway is a free self‑directed online course. So you can work your way through it at your own pace in your own time. What I've done is, in a nutshell, tried to unpack the framework and the principles and given some examples of practical applications so in each of those lessons that you see on the screen you can find some basic information, some clips to watch, a quiz or an interactive activity, links to resources and further learning opportunities and also links to references and reading. So it's a bit of a mix of lots of content. Next Michael will show you what the pathway looks like and how you can access it.

MICHAEL: Thank you, Annette. Since I'm a bit pressed for time I've included two links and two QR codes, the first one about giving you access to our Pathways Awarua, which I'll demonstrate in a minute, and another one that will take you to a sign-up page for free webinars that we run on a regular basis. I've put the links into the chat for you as well. If you just let me share my screen.

ANNETTE: Sure.

MICHAEL: Thank you. What you have in front of you is the Pathways Awarua website. It's pathwaysawarua.com. Just a few words about the name, when pathways was first initiated it was fully funded and supported by the Tertiary Education Commission New Zealand and also the Ministry of Education. It was designed as a literacy and numeracy embedding tool and later on educator content was added as well. The name Awarua comes from Maori consisting of two words Awar and ura, number 2, and it's referencing the braided rivers. You might have seen those in New Zealand or elsewhere, and the two grades being the rivers symbolising literacy and numeracy and how they weave through everyday life and work in our courses.

Pathways is accessible for anyone. You don't have to be a New Zealand resident or citizen. My mum in Germany and my friend Ping in China is on Pathways Awarua, so how do you get access? It couldn’t be easier. Down at the bottom you have got your blue educator tab. Click on that. Select “tertiary educator” and then all you have to do is fill in a couple of details, first name, last name, email address, come up with a username and password and then under “organisation name” or number, just start typing “overseas” and you will see overseas organisations come up, and click on “register” and you're done. No strings attached.

On that note, if you get stuck on anything, down the bottom here we have a little bit help button. If you click on that during New Zealand business hours, that is a live chat. It's a real person based, not ChatGPT. You can have a chat to our help desk to help you get that sorted if you get stuck.

Let me log in as an educator. Just punch in the username, your password and what you are presented with is the educator dashboard. I mentioned earlier initially Pathways Awarua was designed for embedding literacy and numeracy for our adult learners. You have full access to all of that content if you click on the “learner pathways” tile. You will have all those different pathways and modules. There are over 500 modules worth of content. Some directly related to literacy and numeracy. We also have embedded pathways here. We also refer to them as hiding vegetables in your kids’ dinner where you acquire other skills in acquiring literacy and numeracy skills.

All the educator pathways are under the first tile here. Clicking on that, you will see quite a range of different resources and they all provided by Ako Awarua. They are all freely accessible. The one we are talking about here today is the UDL pathway which was recently added. Click on the image and that will take you to the pathway map. As you click on the different lessons here you will get a little overview, a summary of what that lesson is about. Then when you're ready to start, click on the start button. That will open up in a new browser window up the top. There is your first lesson loading. Then you can scroll up the top. You can work your way through that. As Annette mentioned, we have video clips in there, we’ve got audio, we’ve got interactive activities, quizzes and so on. When you're done, all you need to do is close the tab and you will fall back on to the pathway map and then you can select next lesson. All of that content is also available through a mobile browser. Let me just close this. Same idea, you have your mobile or your iPad, or whichever device you're using. Log in and then select “educator pathways”, and again you have the whole range here. We're after universal design for learning. You will have all the different modules here. Select whichever you want. Click on start and again remember this will start in a new browser tab. At the moment we have two tabs. If you click on start, you have a third tab opening and the lesson will load and you're all ready to go. Upon completion just click on the tabs, close the tab that you've just finished. You will fall back on this frame here and then you can select the next module. That is, in short, how you get access to Pathways Awarua, create an educator account and have access to all of our course educator pathways. Back to you Annette, and the presentation.

DARLENE: Annette, you have five minutes to go. Do you want to hand over to questions now or say a couple of other words?

ANNETTE: I'm just showing you our contact details.

MICHAEL: I will paste them in the chat as well. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions. Happy to help, both of us.

DARLENE: Excellent. There is only one question in the Q&A. I encourage if anybody else has any other questions. I'm sorry if I missed this. I got distracted by the chat. How do you sign up for courses if your organisation's name is not in the sign-up list, as in the New South Wales Department of Education?

MICHAEL: All you have to select is in the sign-up options under “organisation”, start typing “overseas” and it will come up with an overseas organisation option and you're all in.

DARLENE: Great. Excellent. Thank you. I realise that probably got answered. It's absolutely brilliant to see the literacy and numeracy course there. I don't know if people have seen, but our current government has put out a discussion paper around student support policy that universities need to implement that includes literacy and numeracy support that students may be challenged with. I will pop those links in as well. People might want to see that policy and actually look at the discussion paper. Any other questions before we sign off? I know that you wanted to hand back over one minute beforehand. Any final questions?

MICHAEL: On that note, one more addition. All our learner pathways are opened internationally as well, so you can get your learners to sign up and work on their literacy and numeracy skills as well as the educator pathways.

DARLENE: That is brilliant. That's going to be very exciting. We'll be in contact no doubt once we get some confirmation of the government around what their plans are around this. It is an interesting policy piece that’s happening. There is a lot happening in our space in the higher education space. We also have free TAFE for our VET sector as well, so there’s quite a lot happening that’s influencing the equity space, which is absolutely brilliant.

ANNETTE: Absolutely.

DARLENE: If there's no questions…

ANNETTE: I think there's a few more questions in the Q&A.

DARLENE: Is there? Oh, goodness. I have too many things open here. Goodness, gracious. Thank you for sharing, it was great. Do you know how the pathways differ from the UDL in tertiary education. So ADCET has got a UDL course and we want to promote that.

ANNETTE: Yes. Thank you, and that's a really good question. I did do the eModule, the ADCET eModule as I was doing my research for our educator pathway and I put a link to your module in our pathway, Darlene.

DARLENE: Brilliant.

ANNETTE: I think it's good to share with people the resources that are available. I think it's an excellent course, the e-module you have got. I've used some of your resources too, belatedly.

DARLENE: No, that’s fine. We do share that. The same with New Zealand also duplicated our supporting students with disability in VET, those two e-learnings have been duplicated in New Zealand. A lot of our work came off from UDL work in Ireland. We are internationally sharing what we are learning and doing. It’s great.

ANNETTE: Exactly. It's all about sharing. I think the last question might be for you, Michael. How many people have made their way through the site?

MICHAEL: In terms of learners, we currently have about 180,000 students registered. In terms of educators, I would need to look that up. It's in the thousands, definitely.

DARLENE: That's brilliant. Absolutely fabulous.

ANNETTE: We would really encourage you to have a go, have a look at the UDL educator pathway, and maybe try out some of the learner pathways with your learners as well, because they are really good learning tools, self‑directed learning tools. We probably need to finish here, don’t we, Darlene?

DARLENE: We do. Indeed. You’re doing well with the timing. Thank you so much. Absolutely brilliant. I'm just going to post in the chat before we leave just the statement that was made around the literacy and numeracy support within the supporting the support policy. Do you want to finish now?

ANNETTE: Yes please.

MICHAEL: We shall.

ANNETTE: Thank you very much, everyone, for joining our session. We will just close with a closing Karakia. Over to you, Michael.

MICHAEL: (Language other than English spoken.) Our work has finished for the moment. Bless us all. Our colleagues, our families. Peace to the universe. Thank you for having us. Miss you already.

ANNETTE: Thanks everyone and enjoy the rest of the symposium.

DARLENE: That's great and thank you for that brilliant ending. Take care. Thanks everybody and see you in the next session.

ANNETTE: Thank you, Darlene.

DARLENE: Bye.

ANNETTE: Bye, bye.