

Accent on Access

ACCCESS job training scheme came into being 1 April 1987. The Maori Delivery System began 12 January 1987. ACCESS replaces the old T.A.P.S. (Training Assistance Programmes) and the big chances are that it will be open to anyone. Initially it is targeted at disadvantaged people, school leavers, long term unemployed and Maori people, particularly young Maori.

The Maori delivery system of ACCESS is open to anyone who wants to train in a Maori environment, and will provide a distinctly Maori orientation to training.

Training courses are conducted on marae and in the local community rather than Polytechs and Community Colleges. This ensures that local people are involved with the decisions in relation to the training and can see the areas where more assistance is required.

Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Koro Wetera, "Never before have we been given the resources to handle ourselves, and never before has any Government accepted the word of the Maori people to be allowed to guide their own destiny. We must start with our school leavers, and see that they do not fall between the cracks of our society and are lost."

TUKUNA MA TE IWĪ E KORERO
"Let the people decide their own destiny."

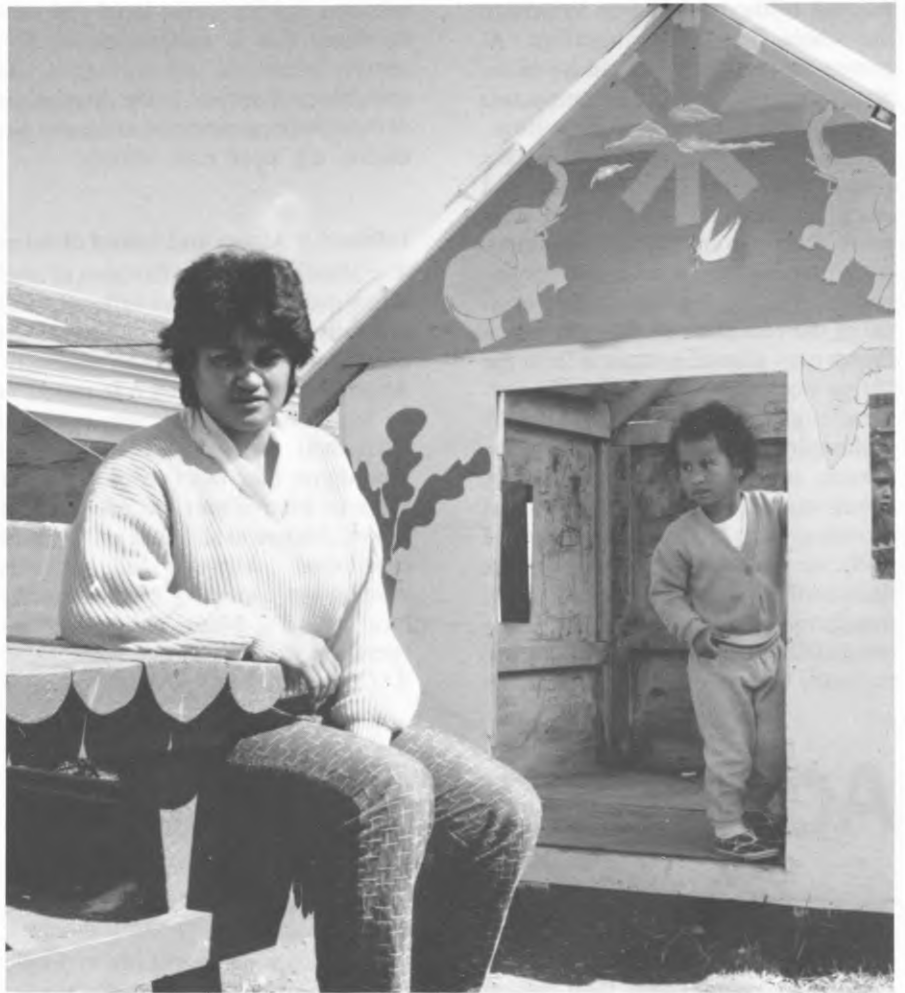
Syd Bird spoke to Howie Tamati, Lovey Waitoa, Youth Development Officers in Wellington.

Te Ararua situated on the east cape of the North Island is a small seaside settlement.

Lovey Waitoa has travelled a long way from her turangawaewae of Te Ararua. Touring the world representing New Zealand in softball brought Lovey into contact with varied lifestyles and cultures.

Playing ball in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia meant lots of social contact with young people from different backgrounds.

"I recall while travelling in Canada and the States the vast gaps between the rich and the poor. It really shocked me



Lovey Waitoa

to see the way some of the young black people lived. All this poverty and depression in countries so rich and powerful."

Lovey toured with the New Zealand softball team during 1985-86, on her return to New Zealand she moved to Wellington to accept an offer to pitch for Broadway.

"When I came back to New Zealand I decided that there was more to life than just playing softball. I could see that our young tangata whenua were suffering really bad social problems in unemployment, drugs, high crime rate. I could also see that the old "couldn't care less" attitude had set in. I used to feel like that when I was at that age. I wanted to work with our young tangata whenua."

Lovey joined the Maori ACCESS programme as a Youth Development Officer.

"I've spent a lot of time talking to people at all levels trying to determine where I could be most effective."

One of the first things she did on starting the job was to sit down and write to every softball club in the Hutt. The response she received from the clubs was disappointing but Lovey says she is just in the first season.

Lovey explains, "Softball had been my career, and now I want to use that experience and knowledge to work with the other clubs and the kids. I asked the clubs if they could provide places on teams for 3-4 people for the season but got very little response.

One club Te Mangungu came up with