

## REPORT

# *English Language Attitudes of Final-Year High School and First-Year University Students in Papua New Guinea*

Paul Buschenhofen

*Papua New Guinea University of Technology*

*This study assesses the attitudes towards English existing among year 12 and final-year university students in Papua New Guinea (PNG) at the present time. Using almost identical survey instruments for both groups, the author surveyed approximately half of current year 12 and first-year university students in PNG. Both groups were contrasted in terms of their tolerance towards the use of English in a variety of contexts. The results indicate (1) a generally positive attitude by both groups towards English and (2) some significant attitudinal differences in relation to specific English language contexts. The differences in response patterns were representative of changes in attitudes among both groups of students that reflect the changing social, educational, and linguistic conditions which characterise the transition from year 12 to university education.*