

Kathryn Sutherland, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON,

Kathryn.Sutherland@vuw.ac.nz

Language

Enhancement and effectiveness give us already two other
words to counter the

Violence of

Impact.

Such a slamming, crashing, thudding
word that bumps up against and
into our disciplinary colleagues, and
have we stopped
to think
that

Discipline itself is another

violent word with its connotations of
punishment
and control?

Each of us could choose to use different

words, different
images, less
violent, less

Neo-liberal language and more

Connecting, collaborating, challenging, and
creative narratives.

Economic metaphors are not the only
ones available to us.

Beauty, love, joy and meaningfulness

are all 'outcomes' we could aspire
to achieve and grasp and cherish
and not ever aim
to 'measure.'

Ako is to teach AND to learn,

and in that one word the

Student is already and

always at the centre,
so we should

Explore and examine the power of

the language we are using and
whom it touches.

Sutherland

In our development work AND
in our language,
let us endeavour not to
make an impact,
but instead to
make a

Difference.

An acrostic poem written on the first morning of the ‘Evidence-Based Educational Development Symposium’ on Vancouver Island, 14-15 June 2015.

Kathryn Sutherland is Associate Dean (Students, Learning & Teaching) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington.