

NGĀI TAHU EDUCATION STRATEGY

Adopted January 2006

Purpose

This five-year plan represents our desire to make significant gains through good initiative and influence across the education sector. It is intended to guide our efforts to support and influence quality education, quality opportunities and quality results for Ngāi Tahu whānui.

We recognise that rūnaka amongst others, including government agencies, are actively involved in education matters. While the State is responsible for the national education system, papatipu rūnaka and Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu play a vital role in highlighting and shaping local initiatives. We aim to make progress through better linkages and collective action across the sector, as a matter of good practice.

Overview

Ngai Tahu economic, social and cultural aspirations will continue to form and reshape our foundations in the 21st Century. These expectations require us to reinforce our capability to organise, to be decisive and to be successful individuals, whānau, hapū and iwi. We strive to enable Ngāi Tahu whānui - to live long and live well; to be culturally enriched; and to lead the future. This is exemplified in our whakataukī, “Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri a muri ake nei.”

To make progress, we have identified a set of education goals and tactics. These are based on the diverse interests and expectations of Ngāi Tahu whānui and current research and practice. Some of our strategies focus on Ngāi Tahu living in Te Waipounamu whereas other strategies are about reaching and benefiting all registered Ngāi Tahu whānui.

While education offers Ngāi Tahu whānui opportunities to advance and to successfully contribute to and engage in society, the task ahead is to choose our options wisely and thereafter, to proceed thoughtfully. We recognise that strengthening ourselves and guiding future generations toward autonomy and independence, whilst mindful of whānau, hapū and iwi responsibilities, will test personal commitment and collective action. We intend to build our leadership in education so we may inspire a sense of belonging, encourage greater participation in Ngāi Tahu affairs, stimulate passion for Ngāi Tahu advancement, and value service to others – to be Ngāi Tahu.

We invite regular contact, good networks and sound partnerships that are beneficial to Ngāi Tahu whānui. Ngāi Tahu will continue to lead and to work alongside reputable agencies and groups on projects, programmes and other initiatives that support and enhance the quality of life for Ngāi Tahu whānui. Our approach is to positively influence the education sector and to nurture Ngāi Tahutanga amongst Ngāi Tahu whānui. In this regard, we look to local rūnaka, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – Toitū te Iwi, Te Tapuae o Rehua Ltd and

He Oranga Pounamu to work closely together with others in pursuit of our goals and aspirations.

The quality of education provision, the relevance and suitability of learning options and positive achievement are critical intervention points for Ngāi Tahu. With these priorities, we expect our presence and initiative to make a significant contribution to education advancement for all Māori.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has approved the strategy with the understanding that:

- Current initiatives that are proven to be useful and effective shall continue;
- A review of the strategy will be undertaken annually;
- Toitū te Iwi ensure that local rūnaka are involved in operational decisions and actions that affect them;
- The plan supports local rūnaka goals and aspirations; and
- The plan enables Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to set and evolve its education agenda and priorities.

The implementation of this plan is expected to positively contribute to the well being of Ngāi Tahu whānui. The plan reflects Ngāi Tahu Vision 2025 and the outlook for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu that is expressed in its 15-year strategic goals¹, as follows:

- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will provide and facilitate a wide range of integrated, quality educational programmes and services to serve more Ngāi Tahu.
- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will work with families and communities in their efforts to achieve the educational needs and aspirations of Ngāi Tahu.
- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will cultivate, nurture, perpetuate and practice all things Ngāi Tahu including culture, values, history, language, oral traditions, and literature.
- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will foster the development of leaders who focus on service to others.
- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will optimise the value and use of current financial and non-financial resources and actively seek and develop new resources.
- TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU will continue to develop as a dynamic, nurturing, learning community.

¹ Adapted with reference to the Kamehameha Schools Strategy Framework.

Our Five-Year Strategic Implementation Plan

GOAL 1

Influence and support quality Early Childhood Education

Rationale:

National research shows that participation in quality early childhood education (ECE) is more likely to achieve good learning outcomes for tamariki. Early childhood is a time when the foundations for language development, cultural transmission, social skills, behaviours and attitudes are provided. There appear to be two significant contributors toward good early childhood learning experiences: (1) the quality of family ties and involvement in the child's early learning experiences; and (2) the resources available to children and parents.

Ngāi Tahu research indicates high participation in some form of early childhood education. Te Kōhanga Reo attracts around 14% while most attend kindergartens, play centres and playgroups. While Ngāi Tahu whānui would like access to quality immersion and bilingual options there are few teachers in this area.

We want to increase choice of quality provision, with effective teachers in immersion and bilingual programmes; and to increase access to Ngāi Tahu curriculum resources for teachers and Ngāi Tahu whānau.

Target Group:

We will focus on Ngāi Tahu tamariki from birth to six years old, and their caregivers.

Tactics:

Grow our Own

- Develop and distribute Ngāi Tahu resources for caregivers and ECE professionals.

Influence the System

- Develop and offer professional development courses, such as Whakapiki i te Reo for ECE teachers, in collaboration with at least one Te Tapuae partner institution, the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission.
- Ensure that within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā there are independently operated and whānau supported early childhood centres with a Ngāi Tahu focus that are supported in suitable and sustainable ways.

GOAL 2

Influence and support quality Compulsory Education

Rationale:

Quality teaching is the key system influence on student achievement. In addition, positive whānau engagement with the education sector and others is more likely to support achievement. We also know that providers with good governance, management, and leadership generally offer a quality-learning environment for all students and value strong relationships with the wider community.

Our research indicates that Māori, particularly Ngāi Tahu students, are often invisible in this sector. We also know that Māori are more likely to exit earlier without school qualifications and less likely to enter tertiary education. This is particularly the case for Māori in low decile schools. Further to this, external examination data for 2004 NCEA showed that Māori scored consistently below the national average.

In Te Waipounamu, there are fewer teachers who are Māori in comparison to the national average. There are six immersion and 22 bilingual classes. Although there are 633 schools in the takiwā, only a handful might claim to engage well with Ngāi Tahu whānui and possibly offer curriculum options that reflect Ngāi Tahu knowledge and experience.

Target Group:

We will focus on Ngāi Tahu tamariki and rakatahi from 6-18 years and their caregivers in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā.

Tactics:

Grow our Own

- Assist Ngāi Tahu whānau to access literacy, numeracy and achievement support through suitable Ngāi Tahu funded out-of-school programmes.
- Use initiatives such as the Yamada O'Regan scholarships and the Tū Mai Rakatahi programme to encourage Ngāi Tahu students to remain at school and complete a qualification.

Influence the System

- Develop and implement initiatives such as Te Kete Aoraki and Whakapiki i te reo, in co-operation with targeted schools, tertiary providers and agencies including the Ministry of Education, to increase effective teaching, quality engagement and positive learning and achievement outcomes.

GOAL 3

Influence and support quality initiatives in Tertiary and Adult Education

Rationale:

The rate of change for Māori participation is outstripping the non-Māori rate. Much of this increase can be attributed to wānanga institutions. However, much of this growth has occurred at undergraduate levels including national certificate level courses. While the quality of access and level of participation in academic and non-academic fields are important, retention and completion at all levels are also desired.

Target Group:

This involves all Ngāi Tahu learners at the tertiary level.

Tactics:

Grow our Own

- Increase Ngāi Tahu participation, retention and completion at tertiary institutions through grants, awards and scholarships.
- Identify and pursue leadership-building options for Ngāi Tahu whānui and organisations.

Influence the System

- Use the strategic alliances of Te Tapuae to advance Ngāi Tahu goals and aspirations in social, economic, cultural and environmental areas.
- Use different incentives, including apprenticeship support, with suitable partners for Ngāi Tahu students to enter trades and industry.

GOAL 4

Nurture the Ngāi Tahu identity and its contribution to nation building

Rationale:

We believe that cultural identity makes a positive and important contribution to wellness, in particular, to good health and education outcomes. A strong Ngāi Tahu identity affirms belonging and a sense of security whilst also providing access to social domains and support networks.

The Mō Tātou Survey reported an overwhelming interest in accessing skills and knowledge to build a strong Ngāi Tahu identity, and to increase access to and use of te reo, tikanga and whakapapa. Moreover, many respondents want a supportive process as they attempt to reconnect.

Those living outside the takiwā are looking for opportunities to participate in Ngāi Tahu affairs and initiatives.

Target Group:

This involves all Ngāi Tahu whānui and the communities within the Ngāi Tahu rohe.

Tactics:

Grow our Own

- Support culture-building initiatives through the Ngāi Tahu Fund policy.
- Facilitate, review and support processes to progress the Kotahi Mano Kāika strategy.
- Promote and support community focussed and Ngāi Tahu whānau supported identity building and enrichment initiatives such as kapa haka and te reo programmes.

Influence the System

- Imbue Ngāi Tahu stories, values, culture and history in educational curricula and engage with local and wider Ngāi Tahu fora.