

Te Kāhui Amokura Strategic Work Plan

Building Māori success at New Zealand's universities

Background

Te Kāhui Amokura, which comprises a representative from each university, provides Universities New Zealand Te Pōkai Tara with advice to inform decision-making and improve outcomes for Māori university students (taura), staff and Māori scholarship.

Te Kāhui Amokura have developed this strategic work plan, which focuses on the following work streams and contributes to Universities New Zealand's overarching priorities.

Work streams

1. Improving outcomes for Māori learners

Policy focus 1A: Retention and improving university qualification completion rates of taura.

The national completion rate for taura at universities is 71%, compared to non-Māori at 83%. We are pleased this gap has reduced however we remain focused on raising the completion rate even higher.

We will be working to help universities identify what initiatives have worked well to retain our taura and raise the completion rate year on year.

This will continue to be a priority until at a national level there is no difference in completion rates between Māori and non-Māori at university.

Policy focus 1B: Ensuring our taura are supported to study and succeed as Māori.

The literature strongly supports culturally appropriate and relevant learning environments as being fundamental to Māori succeeding in tertiary settings.

Taura respond to a whānau-like atmosphere and it is this whānau-like atmosphere that helps encourage taura to stay on and complete their studies at universities.

Te Kāhui Amokura will provide advice on how to support all taura to learn, study and succeed as Māori at universities.

Policy focus 1C: Boosting the number of rangatahi eligible to attend university.

Increasing the number of rangatahi qualifying with National Certificate in Educational Achievement Level 3 and meeting the University Entrance standard is the most serious issue for Māori in education.

We will investigate how universities can potentially contribute to raising the numbers of rangatahi coming through the pipeline.

This will be a long term focus area.



2. Improving outcomes for current and future Māori university staff

Policy focus 2A: Ensuring the Performance Based Research Fund produces positive outcomes for Māori researchers

An important focus for Te Kāhui Amokura is to have direct influence over the proposed changes to the Performance Based Research Fund specifically to increase the profile and value of Māori scholars and their work.

This work may also extend to looking at other funding mechanisms over time to improve the financial package dedicated to improving outcomes for taura and the universities.

3. Increasing universities' role in the revitalisation of te reo Māori

Taura can attain te reo Māori through a wide range of secondary and tertiary providers. We think this is great progress. We need to ensure that universities remain competitive in this space and that we continue to push the boundaries for the teaching, learning, research and use of te reo Māori.

As one of New Zealand's official languages, we want to ensure that we continue to support te reo Māori as a living taonga and become leaders in the revitalisation of te reo Māori for all New Zealanders.

About Te Kāhui Amokura



Photo by Jim Denny

Te Kāhui Amokura is a committee of Universities New Zealand.

Universities New Zealand, also known as the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee, is the peak body representing the interests of New Zealand's eight universities.

The purpose of Te Kāhui Amokura is to advance and promote a pan-university approach to improve outcomes for Māori university students (taura), staff and Māori scholarship.

“Te Kāhui means an assembly or flock, and Amokura refers to the red-tailed tropic bird whose plumes are a highly distinguished trait. So poetically, Te Kāhui Amokura is a gathering of distinguished leaders of the Maori academic community”. This explanation was given by Sir Tamati Reedy, a former member of Te Kāhui Amokura and a distinguished Māori scholar.

Key contacts

Te Kāhui Amokura

Chair:
Professor Linda Smith
Pro-Vice Chancellor Māori
The University of Waikato

Te Kāhui Amokura strategic work plan

Fiona Johnson-Bell, Portfolio
Manager Education System and
Māori, Universities New Zealand
[fiona.johnson-
bell@universitiesnz.ac.nz](mailto:fiona.johnson-bell@universitiesnz.ac.nz)

Universities New Zealand Te Pōkai Tara

Chris Whelan
Executive Director,
chris.whelan@universitiesnz.ac.nz
www.universitiesnz.ac.nz

