



TE RAUTOKI Ā-TOI: TOIURU REPORT

TE ARAWA

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Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi
Allen + Clarke





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CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	4
1.1. The Kāhui Investment Model.....	4
1.2. Toiuru	4
1.3. Te Arawa data collection methods	5
2. TE ARAWA EVALUATION FINDINGS	5
2.1. Design of the Kāhui Investment Model.....	5
2.2. Pae Motuhake.....	6
2.3. Funding implementation	7
2.4. Reo revitalisation investments	8
2.5. Emerging outcomes	10
3. CONCLUSION	11



1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1. The Kāhui Investment Model

The Kāhui Investment Model has been implemented by Te Mātāwai to invest in kaupapa to revitalise te reo Māori. Key features of the model include:

- The funding investment is delivered through eight Kāhui across Aotearoa; seven representing iwi and regional groupings, and one representing sector-based roopū. The funding is split equally across the eight Kāhui.
- Each Kāhui has a Pae Motuhake comprised of te reo champions and advocates. Pae Motuhake provide leadership over te reo Māori revitalisation efforts at a local level and determine reo revitalisation investment priorities.
- During annual funding rounds, the Pae Motuhake receive applications from individuals and organisations for funding to deliver reo revitalisation kaupapa, programmes and activities. Pae Motuhake investment decisions are ratified by the board of Te Mātāwai.
- The Te Mātāwai tari provides support to the Pae Motuhake through the Te Mātāuru team and leads administrative functions such as contract management.

1.2. Toiuru

Te Mātāwai has commissioned a formative evaluation of the Kāhui Investment Model, to see what parts of the model are working well, and which areas need improvement. The evaluation is intended to provide information to Pae Motuhake, the Te Mātāwai Board and staff on how well the model delivers on the goals and objectives of Pae Motuhake, Kāhui and the Maihi Māori Strategy, and what improvements can be made to ensure it continues to produce a positive impact on the revitalisation of te reo. Toiuru is the name of the formative evaluation, chosen for the following reasons:

- Ko te Toiuru ka tīmata mai i waho o te waharoa o te pā. I reira kua wānangatia te whakaeke atu ki te marae, ngā kaiwhaikōrero, ngā kaikaranga, te ara whakaeke. Mai i te tīmatanga ki te mutunga.
- Koina te mahi tuatahi he waihanga i te ara haere kia ū, kia tau ai ki te wāhi e tūmanakohia ana mō te katoa.

Toiuru signals being at the entrance, beginning, or waharoa of a project, from where informed decisions can be made. Toiuru is thus an evaluation of the Kāhui Investment Model over its first two years. Toiuru was underpinned by kaupapa Māori, and more broadly informed by the mātāpono of manaaki, aroha, tika, and mahi tahi. This report provides a summary of the key findings from data collection undertaken in Te Arawa.



1.3. Te Arawa data collection methods

Evaluation data collection methods in Te Arawa included the following activities:

- a review of documents including the Te Arawa Kāhui Investment Plan, guidance and operational documents related to the Kāhui Investment Model, and funding application materials.
- in depth interviews with 3 Pae Motuhake members and 5 kaitono.
- a review of monitoring data drawn from the Te Mātāpuna system on the funding distribution and initiatives funded.
- data captured at Ngā Hua o Te Mata Reo Wānanga held in Rotorua on Saturday 19 October 2019.

2. TE ARAWA EVALUATION FINDINGS

2.1. Design of the Kāhui Investment Model

The emphasis on localised decision making was strongly supported in Te Arawa

The majority of Pae Motuhake members and kaitono interviewed in Te Arawa considered that the Kāhui Investment Model was well designed as a vehicle to revitalise te reo Māori. The model's focus on Kāhui as the seat of decision making was seen as its key strength. Pae Motuhake and kaitono considered that this was in line with their aspirations to be recognised as the experts in their reo.

The Kāhui Investment Model was viewed as an appropriate way to not only revitalise te reo Māori as a national language, but also to nurture reo ā-hapū, ā-iwi. Those interviewed were particularly positive about the move away from “Wellington-centric decision making” to localised leadership of reo revitalisation. Kaitono and iwi representatives interviewed noted that the Pae Motuhake members knew their communities well, and therefore they trusted them to make robust decisions regarding reo revitalisation priorities and investments.

It's good to have local decision making. We're able to focus on our iwi goals a lot more, instead of trying to explain to someone in Wellington why Tūwharetoa needs this initiative.

- Kaitono

Pae Motuhake members interviewed in Te Arawa considered that they “definitely” had mana motuhake over reo revitalisation priorities and investment decisions in their rohe. While Te Mātāwai kaimahi provided support to develop the Te Arawa investment plan, the investment priorities were “one hundred percent Te Arawa” in that they were led by local people, and reflected iwi aspirations in the Te Arawa Kāhui.



2.2. Pae Motuhake

The Te Arawa Pae Motuhake are respected leaders in te reo Māori

Kaitono that we spoke to in Te Arawa considered that the people that comprised the Te Arawa Pae Motuhake were the “right ones for the job”. They have been “doing the mahi for te reo Māori” for many years and had earned the respect of their communities. The trust and respect the community holds for the Pae Motuhake has meant that funding decisions were generally accepted by kaitono.

[The Pae Motuhake] are of-the-people and for-the-people. We trust that they will make the right decisions for our rohe.

- Kaitono

Pae Motuhake members noted that they feel highly accountable to their communities for their decision making, and this made them take the task of selecting kaitono applications very seriously.

The Te Arawa Pae Motuhake was described by its members as “highly functional”, with all members working well together to advance reo revitalisation in Te Arawa. While Pae Motuhake members were mindful that they represent their respective iwi and hapū, the aim of the group was to further the reo revitalisation aspirations of the Kāhui as a whole: “we leave our baggage at the door”.

Pae Motuhake would like more support in some aspects of the role

As similarly reported in other Kāhui, the Pae Motuhake stated that they received very little training on the role, and that formal induction training would have been useful. This could include upskilling Pae Motuhake members on the governing reo legislation, and on strategic language planning.

Pae Motuhake members also noted that they would like additional support to communicate with their communities about Te Arawa’s reo revitalisation priorities and the availability of the funding. This is currently done through Pae Motuhake members’ networks, but there is little information available to Pae Motuhake regarding how effective this is.

There isn’t really any monitoring of our comms into the grassroots. We don’t know if we are reaching all of our whānau and hapū. We might just be getting to those that are already on the waka.

- Pae Motuhake member

A further challenge highlighted was not having adequate resources to support the kaitono to apply. Many of the Te Arawa Pae Motuhake are providing coaching and assistance to kaitono that approach them for help. However, there is anecdotal evidence that some potential kaitono, particularly small community organisations and whānau, have not applied for funding for their kaupapa due to difficulties completing the application. Pae Motuhake members considered that having a Te Mātāwai representative based in the rohe to assist with communications and support kaitono to develop applications would help extend the reach of Te Matawai.



2.3. Funding implementation

Kaitono in Te Arawa generally found the application process to be robust

Applications in Te Arawa are required to be written in te reo Māori. Pae Motuhake and kaitono interviewed generally considered that this aligns with the kaupapa of Te Mātāwai, and that this was a strength of the investment process in their Kāhui. However, some kaitono raised concerns that it is likely to be a barrier to those whose reo skills are at a less advanced level.

Most kaitono interviewed considered the application process to be appropriate. For some, particularly larger organisations and those with experience applying for funding grants, it was “easy”.

All the questions seemed relevant. Some application forms [for other grants] are overkill on the questions for the amount of funding – this one was about right.

- Kaitono

Other kaitono, particularly those that were less experienced in seeking grants, found the application process challenging. The kaitono interviewed in Te Arawa generally stated that they had managed to “nut it out” and did not consider that major change was needed to the process.

When I first saw [the application form] I thought ‘phoar!’. It was a bit overwhelming – lots of questions and they seemed quite repetitive. But when I actually started filling it out, I found it was okay. It’s important to show that you’ve got a strong kaupapa.

- Kaitono

However, in other Kāhui smaller organisations and individuals experienced significant challenges with the application process, and suggested that the process could be simplified for those seeking grants under a set threshold.

While most kaitono had a positive contracting experience, some kaitono experienced delays in receiving payment

Once their application was accepted, three out of the five kaitono interviewed received their contract promptly and milestone payments were issued on time. Two of the kaitono interviewed experienced delays in finalising the contract or receiving payment, which they recognised may be due to ‘teething issues’ as Te Mātāwai established its systems. One kaitono waited for months to receive a contract, and had to follow up with the Te Mātāwai tari several times over the course of three months. The other kaitono had no issues during the contracting process, but the funding “took ages to come through” despite submitting an invoice for the contracted milestone. The programme being run by the kaitono was nearly completed by the time the payment came through, which meant the kaitono had to pay for resources out of pocket. The kaitono was later informed that a technical problem had caused the delay.



Some Pae Motuhake members and kaitono would like stronger monitoring mechanisms

Kaitono generally considered that reporting requirements were straightforward. Several of the Pae Motuhake interviewed considered that there was a need for additional monitoring information to allow them to better understand what was being delivered within their Kāhui. They stated that it would be useful to have collated data on the number and type of activities delivered in Te Arawa, the quality of initiatives, financial information and outcomes reported by kaitono. Pae Motuhake were clear that they did not want to see kaitono being audited but did want tighter information on how the funding is being used.

This view was shared by some kaitono who noted that, other than written reports, there was little opportunity to provide information on what they had delivered. Kaitono were proud of their kaupapa and wanted to showcase it to the sector. It was suggested that this could take the form of sharing photos or videos as part of the reporting process, or from the Pae Motuhake and/or Te Mātāwai kaimahi.

It would be great if the Pae Motuhake came to observe [the programme] so they can see what's being done with the funding. We want to show off!

- Kaitono

Kaitono also expressed a desire to interact with others delivering Te Mātāwai-funded initiatives, to share advice and learnings. The Hua o te Mata Reo Wānanga was seen as a valuable opportunity to make connections with others, and this kind of collaboration and learning would be beneficial in future.

2.4. Reo revitalisation investments

The Te Arawa investment plan provides a strong basis for investment in reo revitalisation activities

The Te Arawa investment plan was viewed by kaitono and Pae Motuhake as a solid plan that aligned well with the aspirations of whānau, hapori, hapū and iwi in Te Arawa.

The aims and priorities in the plan are great... reflects flaxroots priorities for reo revitalisation really well.

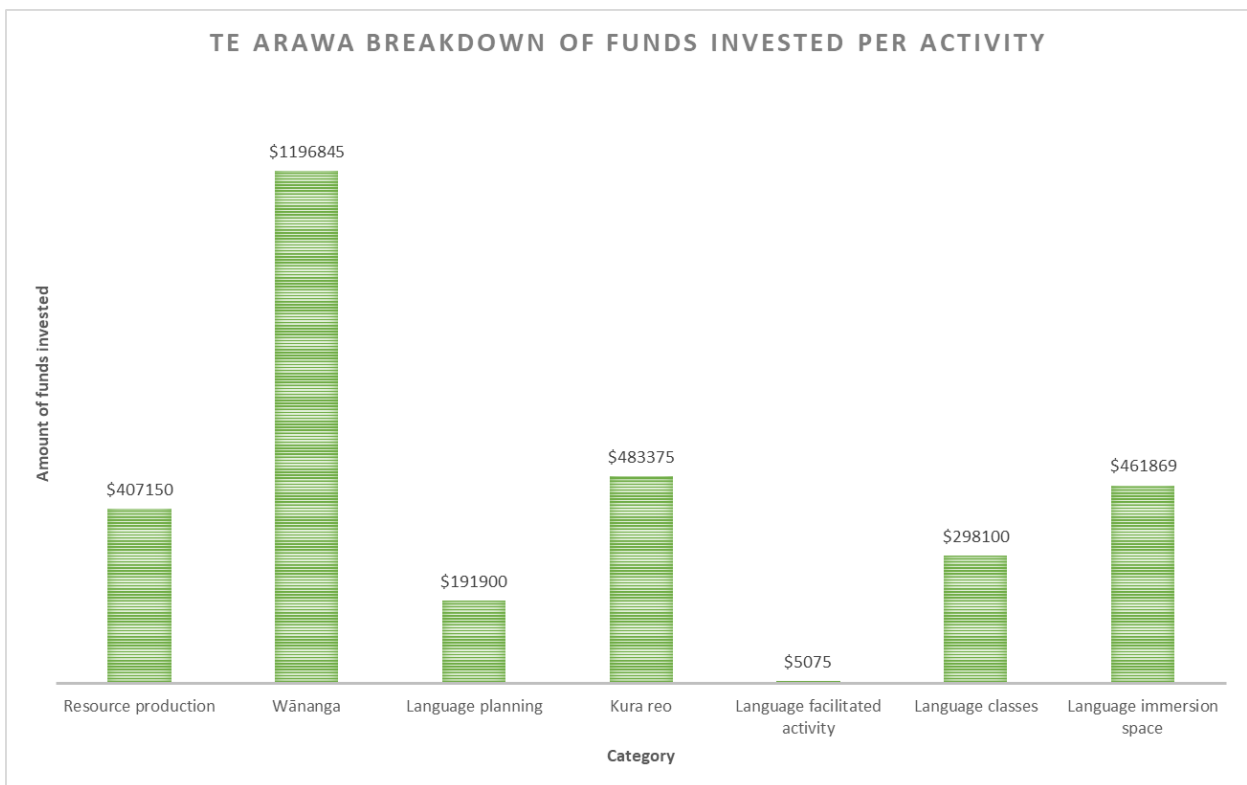
- Kaitono

The process of creating the plan was described “open and collaborative”, involving those active in reo revitalisation in Te Arawa. Iwi representatives that had contributed to the plan’s development stated that they felt listened to during the process, and that it was “very rewarding”.

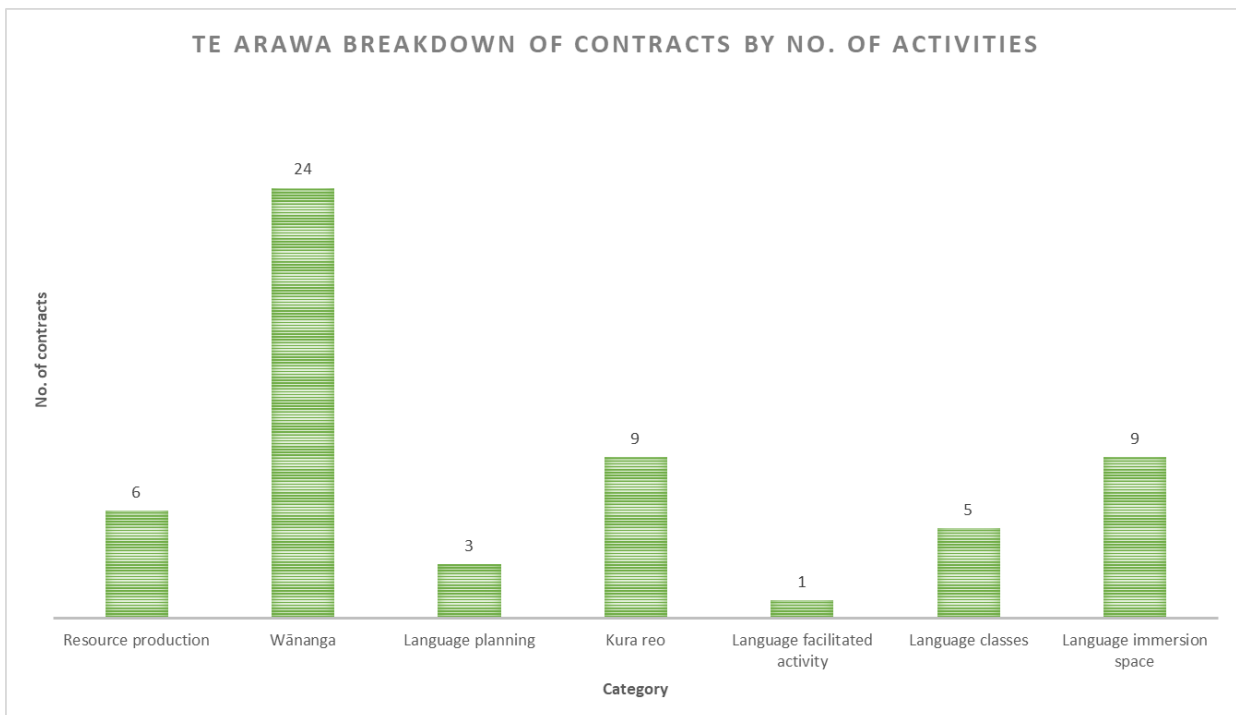
Wānanga are the most common funded kaupapa in Te Arawa

Data from the Te Mātāpuna system shows that to April 2020 wānanga are the most common investment in Te Arawa. Kura reo, language immersion spaces, and resource production were the next largest categories of investment.





The highest number of contracts issued were also for wānanga, followed by kura reo and language immersion spaces.





Pae Motuhake members stated that they viewed wānanga as an important reo revitalisation activity, as “our people are familiar with wānanga”. They also expressed an interest in the potential of new forms of technology as tools for engaging youth in te reo Māori.

Rangatahi are all on social media, gaming and YouTube...so we need to take reo revitalisation there too.

- Pae Motuhake member

Kaitono emphasised the importance of delivering initiatives that fit with the busy lives of whānau

The kaitono interviewed in Te Arawa noted that a challenge in engaging whānau in te reo initiatives is that people are busy with work and family responsibilities. While they are eager to learn reo, it is important that this is tailored to fit with their everyday lives. Kaitono have adapted initiative delivery to achieve this. For example, one kaitono that provided a series of wānanga reo offered ‘catch up’ classes to accommodate those who had to miss a wānanga. Another kaitono focused on their kura reo classes on kupu that related to activities in the home, such as cooking and games, so that whānau could easily incorporate this into their daily lives.

2.5. Emerging outcomes

Pae Motuhake and kaitono reported seeing whānau that attended Te Mātāwai-funded kaupapa becoming more confident and speaking more te reo Māori. This was typically achieved through immersion environments, at which attendees learned domain-specific reo, such as mau rākau and language related to the ngahere.

Kaitono also reported increased knowledge of tikanga, with attendees at kaupapa such as wānanga, kura reo and mau rākau learning waiata, haka and karakia. Some whānau were reported to have established tikanga such as blessing kai in their homes. Kaitono also observed a wider interest in Te Ao Māori, with attendees learning their pepeha and connecting with their marae.

Two kaitono stated that their initiatives had increased in size over the Te Mātāwai funding rounds, and were now reaching greater numbers of whānau. For example, one kaitono noted that the series of wānanga reo they had run in the first funding round had attracted about 20 people. This has now grown to more than 50 attendees. Another kaitono stated that students that had attended her kura reo had adopted the method and set up their own kura in other areas of the rohe.

My proudest moment has been seeing ākongā become kaiako, and taking what they've learned into their own communities. This shows that what we are doing is working.

- Kaitono



3. CONCLUSION

Overall, the Te Arawa Kāhui expressed confidence in the Kāhui Investment Model. Those interviewed considered that its emphasis on local leadership of reo revitalisation is a core strength of the model.

As in other Kāhui, Pae Motuhake members are viewed as leaders in the te reo Māori sector and are considered the right people to drive reo revitalisation investment in the rohe. However, the Pae Motuhake stated that the provision of formal induction training and additional support to communicate with their communities and support the kaitono to apply for funding would be appreciated.

The findings regarding the application process align with those in other Kāhui: while most of the kaitono interviewed in Te Arawa were able to complete the application without too much difficulty, the process favours those with experience and organisation familiarity with funding application processes. Several interviewees in Te Arawa also advocated for greater visibility regarding the initiatives that kaitono are delivering. They would like to see better monitoring information on outputs and outcomes, as well as the establishment of ways to share kaitono experiences and stories.

The delivery of the Kāhui Investment Model is beginning to see positive outcomes in Te Arawa. Reported outcomes include whānau speaking more te reo Māori, increased knowledge of tikanga, and increased size and reach of reo revitalisation initiatives. This provides a strong basis for the continuing revitalisation of te reo Māori in Te Arawa.