TE RAUTOKI Ā-TOI: TOIURU REPORT TE TAI RĀWHITI

SEPTEMBER 2020

Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi Allen + Clarke





Document status:	Final
Version and date:	30 September 2020
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Filing Location:	W:\Te Mātāwai\Evaluation of Te Mātāuru\
	Toiuru\Reports\Kahui Reports
Peer / technical	Hannah Simmonds, Pounamu Aikman
review:	
Verification that	Marnie Carter
QA changes made:	
Proof read:	Hannah Simmonds
Formatting:	Hannah Simmonds
Final QA check	Marnie Carter
and approved for	
release:	

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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 Tai Rāwhiti.





1.3. Te Tai Rāwhiti data collection methods

Evaluation data collection methods in Te Tai Rāwhiti included the following activities:

- a review of documents including the Te Tai Rāwhiti Iwi Cluster 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 4 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 Tūranga-nui-a-Kiwa on Saturday 28th September and in Heretaunga on Sunday 29th September 2019.

2. TE TAI RĀWHITI EVALUATION FINDINGS

2.1. Design of the Kāhui Investment Model

The design of the Kāhui Investment Model was viewed as effective and robust

Pae Motuhake members and kaitono in Te Tai Rāwhiti considered that the allocation of dedicated funding to hapori- and whānau-driven reo revitalisation was "awesome". They noted that government funding for te reo Māori was typically funnelled toward larger entities, and that smaller, locally driven initiatives struggled to find funding. By contrast, the Kāhui Investment Model recognises Māori communities themselves as centres of expertise in reo revitalisation.

Several interviewees, many of whom had been in reo revitalisation for years, stated that the model had injected new energy into reo revitalisation in Te Tai Rāwhiti:

We've seen the [reo revitalisation] sector buzzing since this funding has been available. Marae and whānau can now get some funds and run activities to support their reo.

Pae Motuhake member

Those interviewed in Te Tai Rāwhiti considered that they had mana motuhake over reo revitalisation investment decisions. This was exercised through the identification of Te Tai Rāwhiti-specific reo revitalisation priorities, and being empowered to make investment decisions based on these priorities. There was agreement the Kāhui-devolved model should be retained as the vehicle for investment.

The cluster of iwi within in Te Tai Rāwhiti Kāhui was also considered appropriate, as there are kinship ties between the iwi encompassed by the Kāhui.



2.2. Pae Motuhake

Pae Motuhake were selected by 'shoulder tapping' iwi representatives

Te Tai Rāwhiti Pae Motuhake members stated that they used an iwi-led approach to selecting Pae Motuhake members, with iwi given responsibility to select their representative. This was mainly done through 'shoulder tapping' people who were known to have experience, expertise, and mana in reo revitalisation. Those that were interviewed for this evaluation considered that the process was appropriate, aligning with the model's emphasis on vesting autonomy at the iwi, hapū and community level. This approach was also taken by Tainui Kāhui.

There was agreement amongst interviewees that the Pae Motuhake are respected and credible leaders in reo revitalisation and were active in their communities. They were viewed as strong representatives of their iwi and the 'right people for the job.'

[The Pae Motuhake] are all very linked and grounded in the community, active in the marae.

Kaitono

Pae Motuhake have heavy workloads and formal training would support them in their roles

Pae Motuhake members considered that, as representatives of their Kāhui, they had a duty and responsibility to "listen to our people... and respond to their needs and aspirations." Pae Motuhake members interviewed stated that they were privileged to have been entrusted with leading reo revitalisation Te Tai Rāwhiti and took their Pae Motuhake responsibilities seriously. For most, this meant taking on a significant workload in addition to their 'day job'. For example, Pae Motuhake members undertook tasks such as communications around the availability of the investment funding, encouraging whānau to apply, and support with application development. Pae Motuhake and kaitono also noted that using local knowledge and networks had led to successful uptake of the funding within Te Tai Rāwhiti, but created a burden on individual Pae Motuhake members, who were struggling with the workload.

Pae Motuhake members further noted that some aspects of their roles required new skills that they did not previously possess. In particular, the development of the Te Tai Rāwhiti Investment Plan required an understanding of strategic planning, the policy context of Te Maihi Māori, and the evidence base of whakarauora reo. In the future, providing training in these areas would support the Pae Motuhake in their roles.

Similarly, as was reported in other Kāhui, the Pae Motuhake considered that they did not receive adequate induction training for the role. While there was some documentation provided, more formalised training would have been useful to fully understand the role, as one representative identified:

The essence of the role was clear, but it took a while to get to grips with the specifics. Proper training would have helped.

Pae Motuhake member





2.3. Funding implementation

Several kaitono found the application process challenging

Kaitono in Te Tai Rāwhiti considered that the registration process for Te Mātāwai was straightforward. However, three out of the four kaitono interviewed stated that the application process was onerous and difficult. Feedback included that the application form was too lengthy, there was overlap in some questions, and the word limit was challenging. Some considered the word limit was too high, suggesting a need to lengthy text, whereas others found it difficult to describe what they wanted to deliver in only a few hundred words. The online form was also challenging for those who did not have internet access in the home. These were generally individual and whānau applicants who lacked experience in applying for funding grants. Pae Motuhake members also observed that small communities tended to have fewer applications and speculated that this was because community leaders and people active in reo revitalisation are already overburdened and do not have spare capacity to lead applications or deliver initiatives.

While Pae Motuhake and kaitono did recognise the need to ensure accountability for public funds, they considered that the application process for small grants (for example, under \$10,000) should be streamlined further to make the grant more accessible for those that were not practiced in funding application processes.

In contrast, other kaitono interviewed found the application process fairly simple. One such kaitono attended an information evening which "made it clear what would be needed". This kaitono represented a larger organisation and was experienced in completing funding applications.

The number of questions and information requested was about right – it is important show Te Mātāwai that proposed programme is worth investment.

Kaitono

Once funding had been secured, the ongoing reporting requirements were viewed as reasonable, although some kaitono suggested that this could be enhanced by accepting alternative forms of reporting such as video reports.

The application assessment process is considered robust

Both kaitono and Pae Motuhake members interviewed were confident that the applications were assessed in a fair and transparent manner. This is based on clear criteria, with an expectation that Pae Motuhake will declare any conflicts of interest. Pae Motuhake members also stated that the moderation hui is an important part of the process, and that the Pae Motuhake was typically in agreement regarding investment decisions.

However, the application assessment is time consuming. As Pae Motuhake often wear multiple pōtae within their communities, fitting in application assessment has to be done around other professional, community, and whānau obligations. This has meant each funding round often sees Pae Motuhake members spending late nights assessing applications.



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Some kaitono experienced difficulties in contracting

Two of the kaitono interviewed stated that the process of getting a contract was easy once the funding application was accepted.

The other two kaitono experienced delays in finalising the contract. One kaitono wanted to make some wording changes to the draft contract to better align the initiative description to what was intended, but had trouble getting in touch with the Te Mātāwai tari to make these changes. The kaitono was reluctant to sign the contract as she did not want to be tied to targets that could not be delivered, but eventually signed it because she needed to get the funding for her kaupapa. The last kaitono we spoke with stated that, after being notified their application was successful, they had several months with no contact from Te Mātāwai. This was stressful as they were unsure whether they should commence planning for their kaupapa without certainty of funding.

2.4. Reo revitalisation investments

The investment plan for Te Tai Rāwhiti was developed by the Pae Motuhake, drawing on existing reo revitalisation plans and strategies of the iwi within the Kāhui. Pae Motuhake considered they were well supported by Te Mātāwai kaimahi to develop the plans and appreciated assistance in formulating their priorities into strategic documents.

While kaitono we spoke with for this evaluation did not have direct input into the development of the investment plan, they expressed support for it. The plan was viewed as a clear strategy, which aligns well with flaxroots priorities for reo revitalisation. It was also seen as a useful guidance document when applying for funding.

Wānanga and language planning have been the most common funded kaupapa whakarauora reo in Te Tai Rāwhiti

Pae Motuhake members stated that when assessing applications, they have a 'hierarchy of preference' which includes long term interventions and ongoing kaupapa, and initiatives that are likely to extend the reach of te reo Māori.

When assessing applicants, the Pae prioritise linguistic projects, and those with longevity (not just one-off projects). This hierarchy includes benefit for reo, numbers of participants that will benefit, and the ongoing nature of initiative. They also prioritise those that have 'skin in the game' (i.e. are putting in funding or resources themselves).

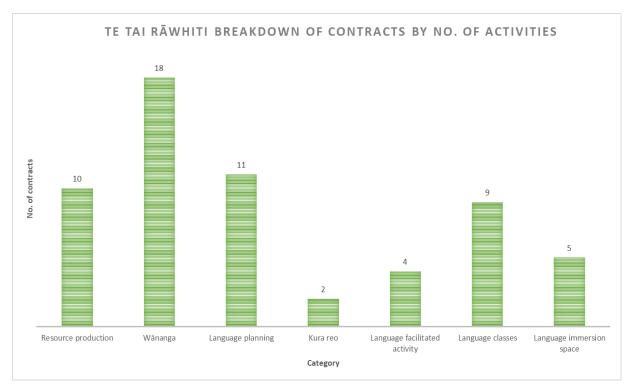
Data from the Te Mātāpuna system shows that to April 2020, wānanga and language planning are the most common investment in Te Tai Rāwhiti.







The highest number of contracts issued were for wānanga, with language planning, resource production and language classes also receiving a high number of contracts.





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Initiatives focusing on everyday reo were valued in Te Tai $\ensuremath{\textit{R}\bar{a}whiti}$

Pae Motuhake and kaitono in Te Tai Rāwhiti noted that many whānau lead complex lives and are dealing with health, economic or social challenges which means reo is not always a priority. They considered that initiatives that focused on 'everyday reo' were important, as this allowed participants to incorporate reo into their daily lives. For example, a rangatahi-focused kaupapa "taught our rangatahi things like how to say 'skux' in te reo." Another initiative used māra kai as a way to engage whānau in reo.

Kaitono also identified that transport is a challenge for some whānau in Te Tai Rāwhiti, so some kaitono are offering in-home reo programmes under which kaimahi visit whānau and teach reo that is applicable to their daily lives. One kaitono noted that attendance at their initiative increased markedly when they began offering childcare during the kaupapa itself, so that whānau could focus on learning.

2.5. Emerging outcomes

Pae Motuhake and kaitono reported seeing increased whānau engagement in te reo Māori

Many of the initiatives in Te Tai Rāwhiti targeted those that had no, or very little, ability to kōrero Māori and had not previously been engaged in learning te reo. Several of the initiatives targeted socially disengaged individuals and whānau, and kaitono reported that many had now commenced on a reo journey. For example, a participant in a kura reo targeting kuia and kaumātua began with no reo, and over time had progressed to being able to do karakia and mihi. "[The kaumātua] says he will pursue the reo journey to the end of his days." A kuia who had participated in the same kura reo stated that she often had young people kōrero Māori to her, and was embarrassed by her inability to reply in te reo. After participating in the kura reo she was getting more confident to try to speak te reo.

Kaitono also observed increased wellbeing through learning reo

Kaitono in Te Tai Rāwhiti noted that while the focus on their initiatives was on revitalising te reo Māori, they also saw enhanced wellbeing amongst those that attended funded initiatives. For example, a kaitono that held a series of noho marae to learn reo, tikanga and enhance whānau cohesion. The kaitono stated that this reignited connections amongst the whānau, including some whānau members who had been disengaged.

Other kaitono reported that their kaupapa had assisted participants to strengthen their connection with their iwi. For many attendees this was the first time that they had heard iwi stories, and many had very little involvement in Te Ao Māori. Kaitono stated that "they found this quite healing."

3. CONCLUSION

Those interviewed from Te Tai Rāwhiti considered the Kāhui Investment Model to be effective, and that its core strength lies in the recognition that whānau, hapū and iwi are best placed to lead the revitalisation of their reo.



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As in other Kāhui, all Pae Motuhake members are viewed as leaders in the te reo Māori sector. There is agreement in Te Tai Rāwhiti that the Pae Motuhake members are the right people to drive reo revitalisation investment in the rohe. However, as the members wear multiple pōtae there are challenges in managing their other professional and community roles with the workload of being on the Pae Motuhake. In addition, Pae Motuhake members typically learned 'on the job' and would benefit from induction training to prepare them for the responsibilities to be assumed.

The findings regarding the application process align with those in other Kāhui: kaitono that had experience and organisational familiarity with funding application processes (typically larger entities) found the process straightforward. Kaitono that had not had such experience (often individuals, whānau, or marae) found it arduous. Kaitono and Pae Motuhake advocated for the process to be simplified for smaller grants.

The delivery of the Kāhui Investment Model is beginning to see positive outcomes in Te Tai Rāwhiti, particularly enhanced confidence and engagement in te reo Māori, and increases in whānau wellbeing. This provides a strong basis for the continuing revitalisation of te reo in Te Tai Rāwhiti.

