



TE RAUTOKI Ā-TOI: TOIURU REPORT

TE TAITOKERAU

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Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi
Allen + Clarke





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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 Taitokerau.



1.3. Te Taitokerau data collection methods

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

- a review of documents including the Te Taitokerau Investment Plan, guidance and operational documents related to the Kāhui Investment Model, and funding application materials.
- in-depth interviews with 5 Pae Motuhake members and 7 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 on 7 and 8 February 2020, in Kerikeri.

2. TE TAITOKERAU EVALUATION FINDINGS

2.1. Design of the Kāhui Investment Model

Te Taitokerau sees the Investment Model as effective

The Kāhui Investment Model centres flaxroots decision making capability, which is considered effective for supporting reo revitalisation in Te Taitokerau. This is largely because it centres whānau and the community as the key drivers for whakarauora reo, in a shift away from Crown-led reo revitalisation. Te Taitokerau whānau are the best people to determine whakaora reo for their kāhui.

The Model supports mana motuhake for Te Taitokerau

Overall, the Te Taitokerau Kāhui recognises it is able to exercise mana motuhake within its rohe, both through the identification of reo revitalisation priorities, and also through the distribution of kaitono funding. “We’re good,” described one Pae Motuhake member we spoke with about this, who felt decisions can be made “autonomously” and in Te Taitokerau’s own interests.

2.2. Pae Motuhake

Te Taitokerau Pae Motuhake members are reo champions, and were selected in that capacity

Pae Motuhake for Te Taitokerau are champions and active ‘movers and shakers’ within reo revitalisation for the Far North. Most have significant experience within this domain, and are intimately familiar with the broader contextual issues that impact upon reo revitalisation kaupapa. For one Pae Motuhake member, the complex circumstances of whānau, including the “high density of poverty” for Te Taitokerau, is a critical factor in whakaora reo, because of the financial demands on whānau that make it difficult – but not impossible – for whānau to be involved in such kaupapa. Such context-based issues are important for Pae Motuhake to be aware of, in the wider efforts at revitalising te reo.



The Te Taitokerau reo strategy may need refreshing to address the complex, intergenerational needs of whānau

As such, some Pae Motuhake members suggested that a refresh of the Kāhui Investment Plan may be warranted, to more meaningfully address the complex circumstances experienced in the rohe. This reality is an important contextual element in future investment plans, to ensure, for example, that kaupapa ā-reo are easily accessible to whānau in terms of geography and time away from mahi.

Te Taitokerau investment priorities also need to account for the communications infrastructure of the Far North, which at present is unable to deliver high-speed internet to whānau, and therefore makes participating virtually in kaupapa reo difficult. A reo strategy that carefully reflects on this, remarked another Pae Motuhake member, “is needed.”

Pae Motuhake wear multiple hats as reo revitalisation experts

Balancing everyday commitments with Pae Motuhake responsibilities can be demanding on Pae Motuhake members. “We have to do this [mahi] on top of all these other kaupapa [we’re involved with]”, described one Pae Motuhake representative. As experts in te reo, and as community leaders, there are multiple demands on Pae Motuhake for Te Taitokerau, which places a very heavy workload on them, causes stress, and makes it difficult to find adequate time to fulfil their Pae Motuhake duties.

No training for Pae Motuhake membership was provided, and there is a need for targeted induction training

None of Te Taitokerau’s Pae Motuhake received induction training, and they were clear that training and support was (and remains) needed to properly induct them into their roles. “We do want to be trained to help us with our duties”, explained one Pae Motuhake representative. Such training could include having a clear terms of reference, upskilling Pae Motuhake members on the governing reo legislation, and having language planning sessions. This would provide a clearer understanding of what input is required from Pae Motuhake members.

2.3. Funding implementation

The application and registration process favours those with previous organisational familiarity and digital literacy

Similar to other Kāhui, there was a split in Te Taitokerau between kaitono who found the application and registration process straightforward, and those that did not. Those that did explained this was the case because of previous experience, being “pretty seasoned to funding applications and processes”, coupled with a higher level of digital literacy. Where this was not the case, kaitono struggled with the level of paperwork and the design of the application process itself. For example, one kaitono asked, “Why can’t we present in other ways other than through paperwork and writing? Like through a video presentation, or a half-written, half video application?”



Pae Motuhake from Te Taitokerau recognised this difficulty, hearing whānau describe it as a “real sucky process”, because of how long the application takes, and the level of information required. They emphasised that the forms need to be simplified to accommodate whānau/kaitono that do not have experience in submitting funding applications.

By contrast, reporting was straightforward

Overall, however, kaitono found the reporting process “quite easy”. Some kaitono wondered if alternative forms of reporting might be considered by Te Mātāwai, such as videos or audio recordings.

Some Pae Motuhake voiced the need to have easy access to the reporting, so that they could “check in” on how funded kaupapa were proceeding. They noted that, while they can access the full reports, providing the key information in a summary format that can be read ‘at a glance’ would assist them to better understand the progress of reo revitalisation activities in their Kāhui.

Pae Motuhake emphasised the need to fund a variety of kaupapa

Some Pae Motuhake we spoke with stated that the allocated funding needs to be distributed strategically, so that it funds a diversity of well-targeted kaupapa reo in the direction of whakarauora reo, and covers the breadth of priorities in the Investment Plan. This means encouraging a variety of types of kaupapa, including whānau-centred reo initiatives, as well as kura reo. Other Pae Motuhake emphasised the need for kaupapa to focus on using the reo in day-to-day practice, and not just learning it for the sake of learning.

2.4. Reo revitalisation investments

The Kāhui Investment Plan for Te Taitokerau was developed through rohe-based wānanga

The current investment priorities for Te Taitokerau were produced after a series of wānanga that engaged whānau from across the kāhui. The purpose of the wānanga were to gather whakaaro from whānau and inform the development of the priorities. Some kaitono, however, felt the engagement wānanga needed to do more to capture the diversity of perspectives upon reo and whakaora reo for Te Taitokerau: “All of us in Taitokerau aren’t one.” Future engagements to gather such perspectives need to be cognisant of this.

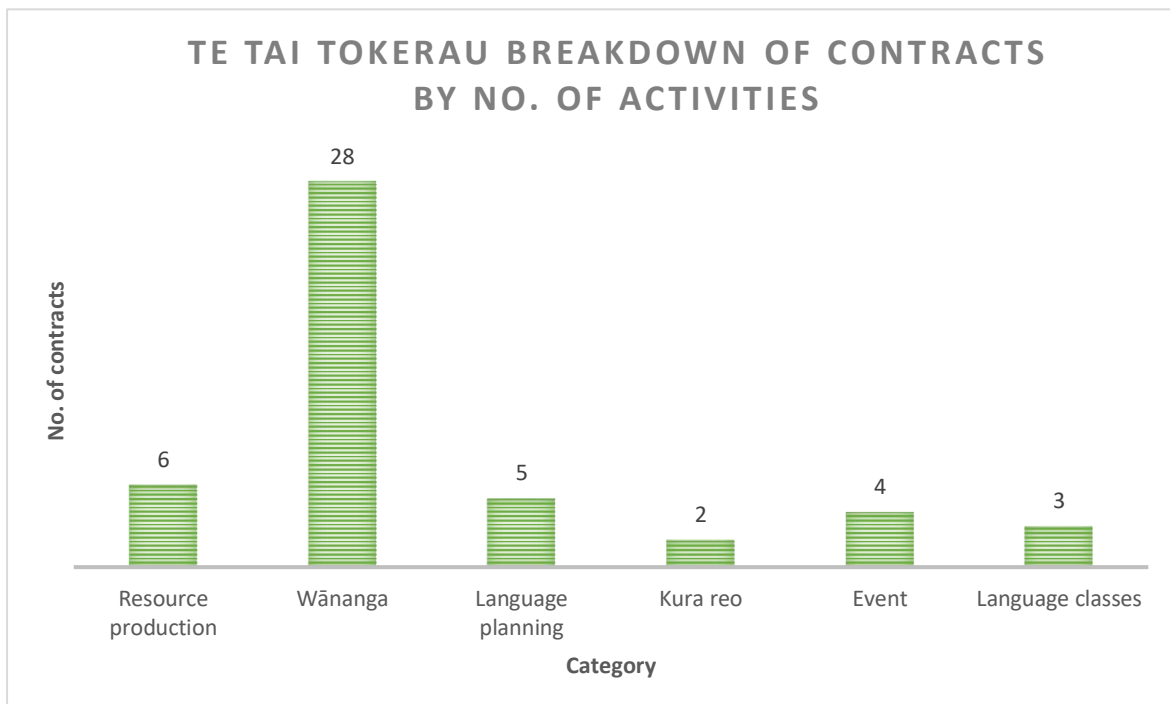
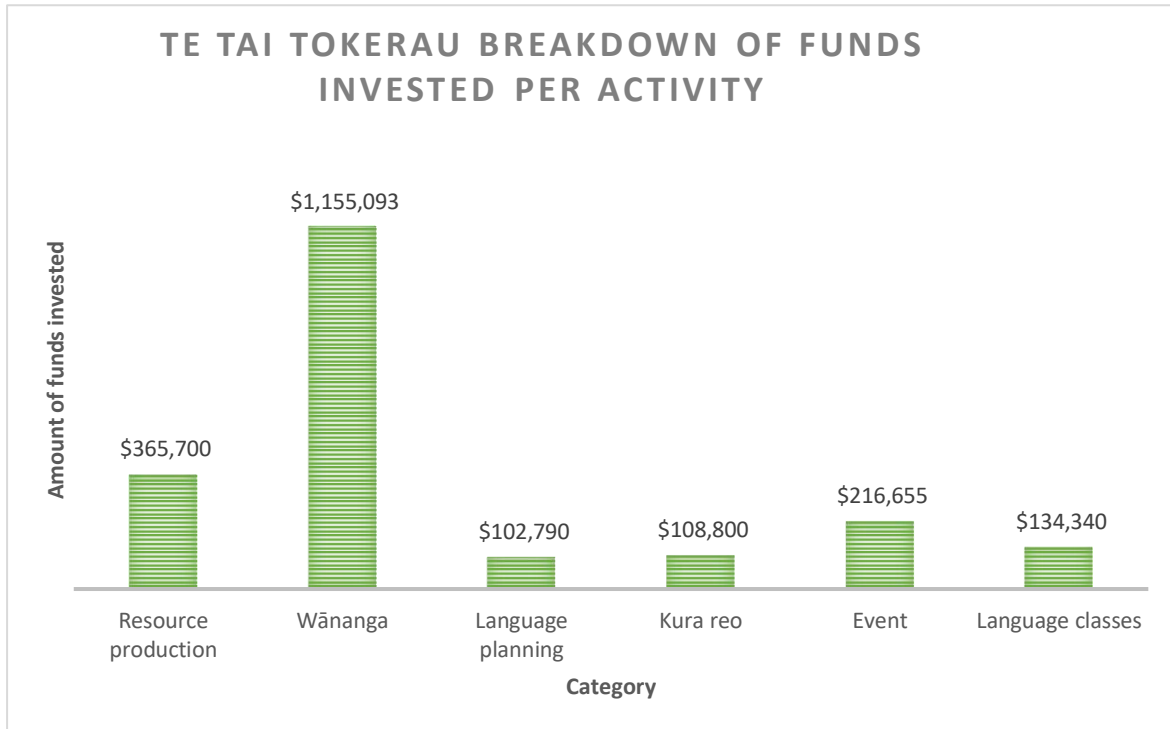
The priorities are broad, and some Pae Motuhake reported that the plan’s breadth is sometimes challenging for kaitono to align their kaupapa to, and needs to be tightened up. As described above, other Pae Motuhake felt the plan needs to be refreshed with a direct line of sight to relevant contextual issues for Te Taitokerau, such as the high density of poverty. Nevertheless, for most kaitono, the plan and priorities were “great” and matched well to their organisations’ reo focus.

Wānanga have been the most common funded kaupapa

Wānanga are the most common investment for kaitono kaupapa in Te Taitokerau, both by dollar value and number of contracts (see graphs below). However, some Pae Motuhake have urged the need for more whānau-based kaupapa. Analysis of data from the Te Mātāpuna system shows that...



kaupapa that have been funded include wānanga; language planning; resource production; language classes and kura reo.





2.5. Emerging outcomes

Overall, there is an “exciting vibe” through reo revitalisation that is being felt in Te Taitokerau. As one Pae Motuhake representative commented, “the wānanga [and other kaupapa reo] are really having an impact”, and despite challenges like transport, “people are turning up in droves” to the various kaupapa reo. “Kua ngaere te reo”, she said.

More broadly, the emerging outcomes that kaitono and Pae Motuhake have reported within Te Taitokerau include:

- Strengthening reo ā-iwi and tuakiri ā-iwi within their respective whānau, hapū, iwi
- Revitalising tikanga ā-hapu, ā-iwi; as well as questioning and challenging whether aspects should change (or not)
- Intergenerational transmission of knowledge, such as handing down kōrero tawhito
- Awakening interest, desire, and curiosity about te reo me ōna tikanga and its use in different domains (hui mate, hui ora etc.)
- The emergence of champions of te reo, and a desire to continue creating these leaders within whānau, hapū and iwi
- Increasing confidence in new and developing reo Māori speakers
- Marae which did not hold wānanga in the current funding round around have approached some kaitono with requests to hold wānanga at their marae in the next round
- Creating and nurturing long-term relationships with external stakeholders so te reo me ōna tikanga revitalisation strategies can continue to flourish within Te Tai Tokerau

3. CONCLUSION

In general, Kāhui across Aotearoa found the Kāhui Investment Model to be effective, with some suggestions offered for improvement, as in Te Taitokerau. Every Kāhui confirmed they felt they had mana motuhake in the management of their affairs. As in all other Kāhui, all Pae Motuhake members recognise the difficulty of managing their ‘day jobs’ with the responsibilities of being on the Pae Motuhake. Similarly, many spoke of the need to have some kind of induction or training, to better prepare themselves for the responsibilities to be assumed.

As in Te Taitokerau, kaitono experiences in most other Kāhui regarding the registration, application, and reporting straightforward were similarly divided along lines of past experience and organisation familiarity with these processes. As other Pae Motuhake have recognised, this needs to be simplified to accommodate for whānau unfamiliar with this.

Finally, language planning has also been considered an important skill to develop amongst other Kāhui, equally for whānau, kaitono, and Pae Motuhake. This is an important consideration in ensuring the sustainability of reo revitalisation into the future.