

## **Watson Ohia: Ngā Kura ā Iwi Presentation Summary: NZPF Conference: Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Whai korōria ki a Ihoa o ngā mano. Tuauriuri whāioio, kī tonu te rangi me te whenua i te nui o tōna korōriatanga. Mapu kau ana te ngākau ki ō tātou tini mate kua ngaro nei i te tirohanga kanohi. Rātou kua whetūrangitia ki a rātou. Huri noa ki a tātou e takatū tonu nei ki runga i te mata o te whenua e whai nei ki te whakatinana i ō rātou tūmanako, tēnā rā tātou katoa.

Tēnā tātou e whai nei kia eke ai ā tātou uri, whānau, kura, hapū, iwi anō hoki ki te 'Tihi o Angitu'. Nā te kaupapa ō 'Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa' tātou i whakakao mai kia eke panuku ai ā tātou tamariki puta noa i te motu. Mā te aha e eke ai? Mā te ū ki te rangatiratanga me te hāpai i te mana motuhake ō tēnā iwi, ō tēnā iwi.

It is an honour to present at the NZPF conference on behalf of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. I acknowledge the organisers, the membership and all those involved in the conference.

Ngā Kura ā Iwi is a movement that has evolved due to the incredible effort, commitment and sacrifice of many elders, community leaders, families, schools, teachers and students. We will always be thankful for the efforts of many, which has enabled Ngā Kura ā Iwi to contribute to the advancement of our people and the growth of the Maori Medium movement. This movement includes Kōhanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori, Kura ā Iwi, Immersion Units, Wānanga. This movement was started by courageous, committed, selfless people in the 1970s and 1980s who;

- Had little faith in the negative status quo generated by the system.
- Mobilized a movement by the people, for the people!
- Established innovative Māori Medium initiatives and the government and its systems and structures had to catch up.
- Exemplified community leadership.
- Māori language and culture can positively mould a person and grow a person's self-efficacy, self-determination and family/community transformation.

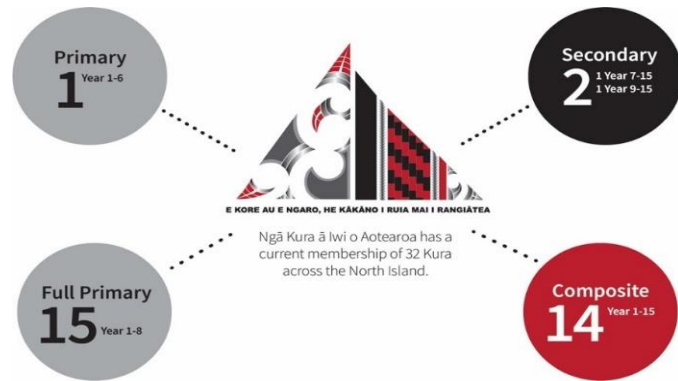


**The Rise of Ngā Kura ā Iwi:** Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa is a constituted body that represents and supports tribal schools that voluntarily affiliate to our organisation. A core of schools came together in 2007 whose fundamental purpose was to support the identity and aspirations of their iwi, hapū, whānau and communities. Our initial group of schools aimed;

- To embed our identity markers such as our language/dialects, our way of life, our “medicine”, our view of the world.
- Create our own unique epistemology, (curriculum, pedagogy, values) and a governance model and policy framework to support that.
- To have the freedom to live with authority as whānau, hapū and iwi.
- To be the key decision makers in all aspects of the education of our children.
- Ngā Kura ā Iwi supports kura to do this. Iwi and their Kura decide how this is achieved by them, for them.

**The NKAI Membership:** There are 32 schools in Ngā Kura ā Iwi throughout New Zealand and new schools, iwi and communities are preparing to join the network.

There are a range of schools including composite year 1 – 13 schools, full primary schools and secondary schools.



**Tukuihotanga: Culturacy is our “X” Factor:** Tukuihotanga or Culturacy is the differentiating factor in regards to Kura ā Iwi. Culturacy is our tribal identity, our language (dialect), our culture and our values. For NKAI, Culturacy is the foundation because;

- It is who we are and we own it.
- It is at the heart of the education of our uri (students).
- Our aim is to ensure uri are “culturate”.
- Being a Ngāti - Secure in identity.
- A culturate uri will be a servant of their people.

Therefore, in regards to NKAI as an organisation, we are established to support iwi, hapū, whānau and kura to achieve rangatiratanga (their aspirations, self-determination) their way. We help build capacity, facilitate collaboration and advocate for our schools and communities. As members of the NKAI support network, it is important that;

- Our schools ensure that their goals align with their iwi’s goals. NKAI supports the aspirations and development of the iwi.
- We remember that iwi contexts and kura contexts vary. We need to be respectful of the different contexts and their autonomy and authority.
- NKAI is here to support schools, not to dictate to schools.
- NKAI and the main government agencies including MOE and ERO have an agreement based on Mana Ōrite. *We have the same MANA.*
- Government and their agencies are often seen as the barrier/problem. However, NKAI acknowledges that often they are also a key element of the solution.



**NKAI’s Vision: Te Tihi o Angitu (TOA):** NKAI has developed a vision based on the aspirations for our students while also recognising that each student’s aspirations, passions, challenges and talents vary depending on the individual and their context. However, NKAI have set out indicators to support and guide our network of schools and the indicators were developed by members from each of our membership schools. This model is what we refer to as Te Tihi o Angitu. Te Tihi o Angitu focuses on three “Pou” so that NKAI students (uri) are;

- Culturally Autonomous (He Uri Whai Tukuihotanga)
- Intellectually Independent (He Uri Whai Mana Motuhake)
- Enjoy Good Health and Wellbeing (He Uri Whai Oranga)

Further information regarding the indicators for each of these “Pou” are on our website

[www.kuraaiwi.maori.nz](http://www.kuraaiwi.maori.nz). The indicators for these “Pou” give focus to our network, our professional learning initiatives, students support programmes, and supports iwi, communities and schools to further define what “student success” is to them.



**NKAI Strategic Focus: 2019 Forward:** Te Tihi o Angitu is the overall NKAI vision which is supported by the NKAI strategy which focuses on;

- ***Our Direction and Capability to Deliver:*** Ensure that NKAI has a quality strategy and the people, systems and infrastructure to deliver our aspirations.
- ***Building the Capacity of our Key Stakeholders:*** We focus on the development of our people which includes our tribal leaderships, boards, communities, principals and other school leaders, teachers, support staff and students.
- ***Strengthening our Partnerships and Advocacy for our Membership:*** We are committed to working with our partner organisations and will always ensure that we advocate for the communities and schools that we represent.

**Conclusions:** NKAI believes that communities, iwi, families and schools can lead transformational change if they have the authority and autonomy to enact their vision and strategies to achieve their aspirations for their uri (children). NKAI provides an opportunity for our communities across the country to collaborate and support each other while ensuring that the aspirations of their own communities are achieved.

The data is clear in regards to the high achievement of students in Māori Medium education. We believe that Kaupapa Māori Education (Rāngai Māori – Maori Medium Education) empowers our children and families **and NKAI fully supports Kōhanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori Aho Matua and Maori Immersion Units**. Presently approximately 6% of Māori children are in Māori Medium education and the goal is that by 2032, 30% of Māori children are in the Māori Medium education pathway. We welcome families, hapū, iwi and communities to consider Māori Medium education as we strive to achieve “Te Tihi o Angitu” and the continued positive advancement of students, families, iwi and communities.