

Unteach Racism

Key messages for Minister and Associate Ministers of Education

Why teachers and why the Teaching Council?

- Racism is a societal issue, which is complex, multi-layered and embedded – it is not solely an education issue and we know teachers can't solve it on their own.
- But teachers have incredible power – they shape the hearts and minds of our tamariki and rangatahi and have the ability to influence the lessons society teaches them.
- The Teaching Council, as the professional body for all teachers, can support teachers to have safe and productive conversations around racism that result in changes to behaviour and practice as set out in *Our Code, Our Standards* | *Ngā Tikanga Matatika, Ngā Paerewa*, the profession's guiding documents
- Unteach Racism is one initiative within the Teaching Council's wider programme of change aimed toward lifting expectations and building capability in te Tiriti o Waitangi Partnership Standard. The Council has already, for example, introduced a new requirement for registration and certification purposes, that teachers develop their capability in te reo me ngā tikanga Māori.

Unteach Racism – what is it all about?

- Unteach Racism recognises that racism is something that is learned and therefore can be unlearned. It acknowledges the unique position and expertise teachers have in being able to address this challenge and inspire others to do the same.
- Unteach Racism aims to support teachers from identifying racism, to being confident to confront it where it emerges and where appropriate, to begin the journey of dismantling the structures that may perpetuate inequality.
- It is a strengths-based professional learning initiative, informed by best practice which provides teachers with opportunities to engage with and demonstrate their commitment to *Our Code, Our Standards* | *Ngā Tikanga Matatika, Ngā Paerewa*.
- Unteach Racism is not compliance focussed, nor mandatory – the renewal of a teacher's practising certificates is not dependent on their engagement with Unteach Racism.

Unteach Racism – complementary to Ministry of Education's Te Hurihanganui

- All teachers from all sectors across Aotearoa New Zealand, including student teachers in Initial Teacher Education will have access to the Unteach Racism digital tool, supporting resources and networking opportunities
- By engaging with Unteach Racism, the foundation will be set for those teachers not involved in the early pilots of Te Hurihanganui to be prepared to land in that space. They will come equipped with a greater appreciation for system-wide change that is needed and a heightened commitment to equity
- The Ministry of Education and Teaching Council intend to work collaboratively in the evaluation of our initiatives to ensure that we measure our collective impact and that what we learn is shared back into our policies and practice in future.