Māori Medium Initial Teacher Education: 
Te Ohu Kaupapa Māori – Working Advisory Group

Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand | Matatū Aotearoa is committed to creating a future-focused Initial Teacher Education (ITE) system that produces outstanding teachers for early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling in both English and Māori medium. Ohu Kaupapa Māori is a Working, Advisory Group that has been brought together to work with Matatū Aotearoa to undertake a range of activities that will support the implementation of a future focused ITE work programme across the Māori Medium ITE sector.

Māori medium ITE approvals process and assessment framework
In order to work within the Māori medium space, Matatū Aotearoa has been guided by Ohu Kaupapa Māori (OKM), the working advisory group engaged in April 2019 to co-design the processes and assessment framework to better recognise a, ‘Māori world view’ within the ‘ITE Programme Approval Requirements’.

Subsequent to this mahi, will be a refresh of resource documents Tātaireo, Te Hāpai ō, and Tātaiako. OKM members are representative of their sectors – ITE, ECE, Kōhanga Reo, Kura (immersion and bilingual); and are recognised for their expertise and experience in teaching, assessment, and te reo competency; underpinned by their ability to recognise, articulate and navigate the differences and the meeting points between ‘te ao Maori’, ‘te ao hurihuri’ and ‘te ao Pakeha’.

OKM has met four times out of the eight hui scheduled through to June 2020. Between each hui, Ohu whāiti sub-groups work with Matatū Aotearoa to develop and advance the ideas agreed to. The ohu whāiti are made up of OKM members and others identified by OKM and Matatū Aotearoa who have expertise in the area being explored. Thanks goes to Te Whare Wānanga o Awanui-a-Rangi, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Te Pū Wānanga o Anamata, Te Wānanga Takiura, University of Auckland, Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Victoria University of Wellington, who have allowed their experts to work with us.

Within Māori medium is a fundamental expectation that ‘mana motuhake’ – the authority to describe their own diversity is maintained. The challenge is to find ways to recognise that diversity within our shared journey and describe the common ground for ‘programme approval’.

- What is the language and terminology we will agree to, so we are talking about the same kaupapa?
- What are our respective roles and responsibilities, and what processes do we implement to allow those responsibilities to be enacted?
- What expectations of unity do we have across the Māori medium profession to assure us, our partners and our whānau that our programmes are creating graduates fit for purpose – that our graduates are ready to teach our children and mokopuna in our kura.

Māori medium ITE Providers will be given the option to use this programmes’ approval pathway from July 2020 onwards. It is envisaged that the process and framework will continue to be improved through ongoing reflective and evaluative processes, embedded in Matatū Aotearoa systems and through ongoing work with panel members and providers.