



Te Tuku Tono

Te Kawe Oraka funding guidelines

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To those of you leading kaupapa that support the wellbeing of whānau across Te Waipounamu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu, I acknowledge the important mahi you do within your communities.

Te Kawe Oraka is a way of investing in initiatives that are grounded in whānau aspirations, shaped by community knowledge, and led by those closest to the needs and opportunities within their rohe. The last Te Kawe Oraka funding round showed us the depth of innovation, care, and leadership across Te Waipounamu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu.

In this round, successful initiatives will be funded for delivery through to 30 June 2027, with the potential to extend if agreed milestones are met and further funding is confirmed by Te Puni Kōkiri. This provides certainty for the initial delivery period, as well as creating a pathway for initiatives with strong progress and ongoing impact to continue beyond the first year.

This funding round, Te Kawe Oraka will be offered through two pathways: a \$250,000+ pathway for initiatives and a fixed \$50,000 pathway for smaller-scale projects.

About Te Kawe Oraka

Te Kawe Oraka supports whānau-centred, community-led initiatives that contribute to whānau wellbeing across Te Waipounamu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu. The name speaks to carrying what is needed for the journey ahead. In this context, *kawe* reminds us that whānau wellbeing is not supported by funding alone, but by the collective carrying of knowledge, relationships, resources, responsibility, and care.

Te Kawe Oraka is grounded within *Whiria te Tuamaka*, our Whānau Ora commissioning approach. Together, these ideas revolve around connection and shared responsibility: weaving the supports around whānau so they are better able to determine their own pathways, respond to change, and pursue the outcomes that matter most to them.

We are looking for initiatives that are strongly connected to whānau aspirations, demonstrate clear community need or opportunity, and show a clear pathway to improved wellbeing outcomes.

We acknowledge all those who contributed to the first Te Kawe Oraka round and the high standard of kaupapa. We now look forward to seeing how this next two-year opportunity can support further whānau-led, community-driven impact.

Nāku noa, nā

Rākihia Tau
Chair, Te Tauraki

1 Te Kawe Oraka overview

1.1 Kupu whakataki – Introduction

This funding opportunity relates to Te Kawe Oraka, which is a funding stream within the Whānau Ora framework. Te Tauraki Limited (Te Tauraki) invites applications from service providers and community organisations across Te Waipounamu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu with the capability and capacity to deliver services for whānau specifically focused on priority areas identified through data, evidence and whānau voice.

Te Kawe Oraka investment will be focused on services and supports that will deliver the greatest benefit for whānau. As outlined below, there are two sets of priorities for this funding opportunity: one for initiatives taking place within the takiwā of Kāi Tahu, and one for initiatives taking place within the takiwā of Te Taihū. Initiatives that span both takiwā are expected to align with the shared priorities (Priority 1 and Priority 2).

Within these focus areas, priority is given to initiatives that:

- Use mobile outreach, community-based, or flexible delivery
- Improve access and engagement across life stages
- Strengthen whānau and community wellbeing over time
- Support prevention, resilience, and responsiveness

Te Kawe Oraka will be offered through two funding pathways. Successful applicants will be contracted for an initial delivery period through to 30 June 2027. Te Tauraki intends to provide for continuation into the 2027-28 financial year, subject to confirmed funding from Te Puni Kōkiri and, where relevant, agreed contract milestones being met. This will be reflected in the contract arrangements.

Relevant documents

This overview document explains the two funding streams and is designed to help applicants identify the most appropriate pathway. For further information on each pathway, please refer to the relevant funding documents:

- Te Kawe Oraka Pathway 1 Funding Guidelines
- Te Kawe Oraka Pathway 2 Funding Guidelines

Application forms can be accessed using the below links:

- [Pathway 1 Application Form](#)
- [Pathway 2 Application Form](#)

1.2 Priority areas

Priority areas within takiwā of Kāi Tahu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu

Priority 1: Te Oriori – Best start for pēpi, māmā and whānau

- Supporting and nurturing pēpi, māmā, and wider whānau from pre-natal inception through to early childhood
- Whānau-centred and culturally grounded approaches
- Using the strengths of intergenerational knowledge

Priority 2: Ara Whānui – Improving whānau and community wellbeing by overcoming barriers to Hauora

- Embracing connection to culture including Te Ao Māori
- Using the strengths of intergenerational knowledge
- Going to where whānau are living, increasing access through mobility and connection

Priority 3: Mauri Tau – Accessible mental wellbeing support for all ages:

- Supporting whānau on their journey to improve mental wellbeing
- Strengthening identity, belonging, and wellbeing
- Using the strengths of culturally grounded approaches, including Te Ao Māori and intergenerational knowledge
- Rakatahi, pakeke, kaumātua, and kuia

Priority areas in takiwā of Te Taihū

Priority 1: Te Oriori – Best start for pēpi, māmā and whānau

- Supporting and nurturing pēpi, māmā, and wider whānau from pre-natal inception through to early childhood
- Whānau-centred and culturally grounded approaches
- Using the strengths of intergenerational knowledge

Priority 2: Ara Whānui – Improving whānau and community wellbeing by overcoming barriers to hauora services

- Embracing connection to culture including Te Ao Māori
- Using the strengths of intergenerational knowledge
- Going to where whānau are living, increasing access through mobility and connection

1.3 Funding scope

The following in-scope and out-of-scope requirements apply to both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.

In scope

- New or time-bound initiatives responding to identified whānau or community need
- Initiatives that strengthen whānau wellbeing over time and support the Whānau Ora Outcomes Framework
- Capability-building that changes or strengthens how delivery occurs (for example workforce development, new service models, systems or processes). Priority is given where there is a clear link from the capability building to additional offerings, tangible outputs, or deliverables.
- Capital assets
- Initiatives supported through co-funding, in-kind contribution, or aligned investment

Out of scope

- Funding of Kaitūwhana (Navigator) Services
- Ongoing delivery, continuation, or expansion of existing services or business-as-usual activity
- Activities funded, or more appropriately funded, through other contracts or funding streams
- Initiatives primarily delivered outside Te Waipounamu and Wharekauri/Rēkohu.
- International travel
- Retrospective funding
- Household-level financial support, including debt repayment
- General organisational overheads not directly attributable to the initiative

1.4 Pathway overview

The following section provides an overview of the two Te Kawe Oraka funding pathways, including the intended focus, application process, and key scope requirements for each pathway. Applicants should refer to the relevant Pathway Funding Guidelines for the full details, eligibility requirements/pre-conditions, evaluation information, and application instructions.

Pathway 1: For applications of \$50,000.

The purpose of this pathway is to provide a streamlined and efficient mechanism to fund smaller, lower risk initiatives that align to the funding priorities. It will enable locally led, visible and timely wellbeing outcomes and contribute to longer term impact.

It supports smaller scale, time-bound initiatives that:

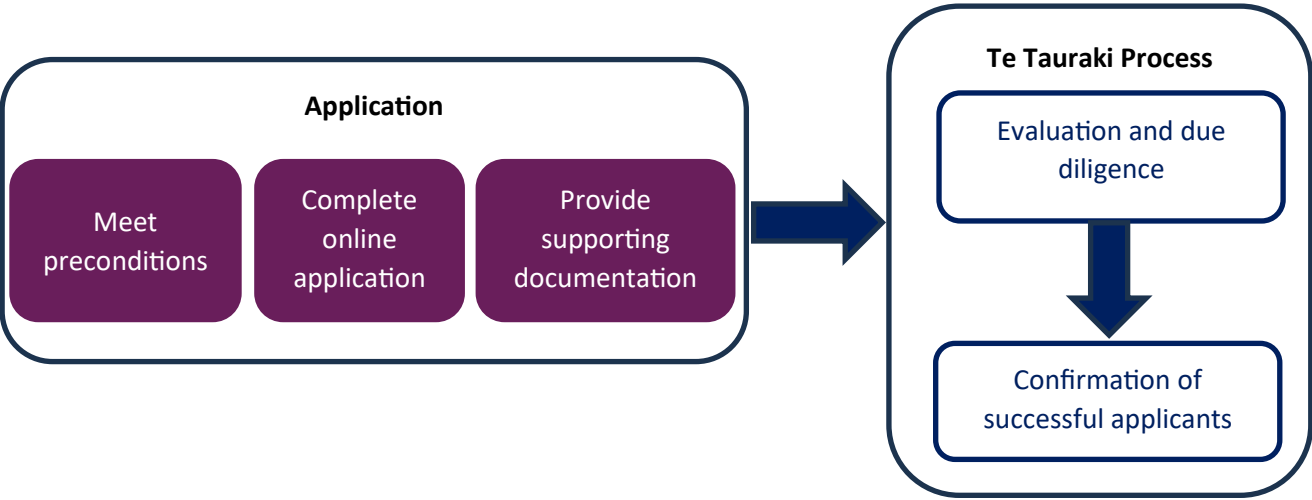
- Demonstrate strong alignment to priorities
- Deliver direct community or whānau wellbeing outcomes
- Are accessible, culturally grounded, and use the strengths of intergenerational connections and experiences
- Utilise mobile outreach, community-or place-based delivery
- Capture and report on whānau voice and experiences

Application process

This pathway uses a single-stage application process through an online application form. In the submission, applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet the relevant pre-conditions, clearly articulate their initiative and the impact it will deliver, and provide supporting documentation.

The evaluation process (as detailed below in section 1.6) includes due diligence checks, and evaluation against weighted criteria.

The application form can be accessed [here](#):



Pathway 2: For applications \$250,000+

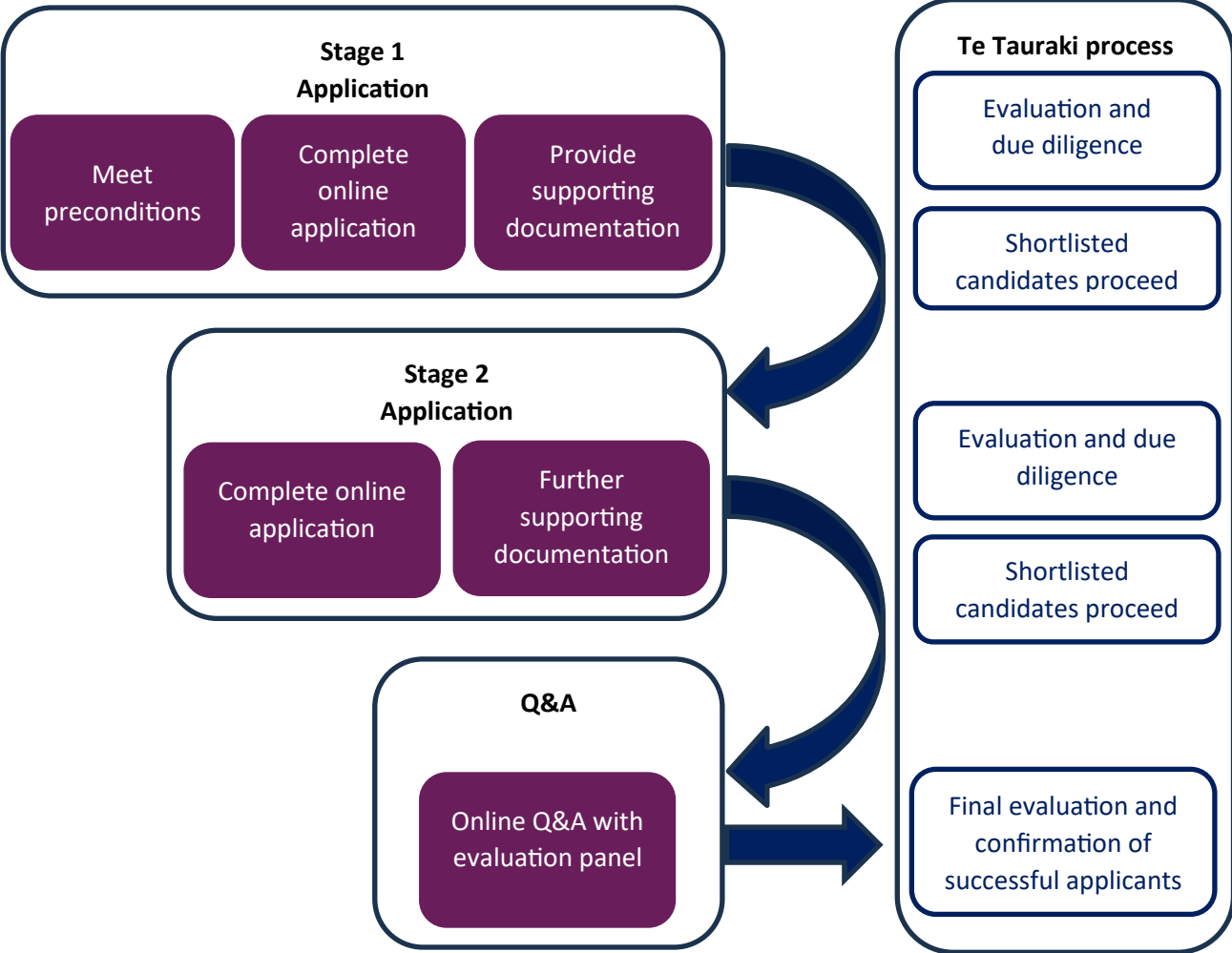
This pathway is for time-bound initiatives that have strong alignment with Te Kawe Oraka priorities, demonstrate delivery capability, systems, data capture, scale, and address access, service reach, mobility, or responsiveness in structured or system-level ways.

Applications must:

- Align clearly with Te Kawe Oraka priorities
- Demonstrate delivery capability, systems, and scale
- Address access, service reach, mobility, or responsiveness in structured or system level ways
- Include a clear whānau theory of change and measurable outcomes
- Capture and report on whānau voice and experiences

Application process

This pathway will use a multi-stage process as described below. The stage 1 application form can be accessed [here](#).



1.5 Eligibility

To be eligible for either funding pathway, applicants must be able to demonstrate that:

- The applicant has been operating as an established entity (including a sole trader, partnership, trust, company, incorporated society, or other legal structure), that has been actively trading or operating for at least 24 months and can demonstrate experience, capability, or community connection relevant to the application.
- The initiative will be delivered within Te Waipounamu and/or Wharekauri/Rēkohu.
- The initiative has a feasible delivery plan for the required timeframe, from the contract start date of November 2026 through to 30 June 2028.
- The applicant has or will have in place by contract execution on 1 November 2026, a Health and Safety Policy that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- The applicant has or will have in place by contract execution on 1 November 2026, a data management system that enables secure collection, storage, and reporting of client-level information.
- The applicant can demonstrate financial solvency and capability to carry out the contract, by providing current audited financial accounts or a verified letter issued by a Chartered Accountant.
- The applicant can provide two referees who can confirm the organisation's reputation, including the strength of its leadership, quality service delivery, and ability to deliver the proposed initiative.

Applicants who are unable to confirm that they meet all the above eligibility criteria in the application pre-conditions, or do not provide the supporting evidence required will not be assessed.

1.6 Evaluation process

Compliance of applications

Each application must first meet the compliance requirements. To be considered compliant, organisations must:

- Meet all preconditions set out in the relevant Funding Pathway Guidelines
- Agree to all declarations included in the application form
- Submit a completed online application form, and provide the supporting documentation by the stated deadline

Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.

Evaluation of application forms

Compliant applications will be evaluated against the below weighted evaluation criteria.

In essence, initiatives will be assessed on the ability to deliver Te Kawe Oraka and the anticipated beneficial impact for whānau. Organisational strengths and weaknesses will be assessed, while risks and overall quality of the proposed initiative will round out the evaluation.

Criteria	Weighting
Strategic alignment & contribution to outcomes	30%
Delivery capability & relevant experience	25%
Capacity, readiness & assurance	25%
Programme evaluation, learning & impact evidence	20%
Total	100%

The evaluation panel will consider the distribution of funding across focus areas, funding priorities, and geographic regions. The panel may exclude an application from further consideration, at its sole discretion, at any stage of the evaluation process based on any criterion, response, or due diligence finding.

Clarifications and due diligence

The initial evaluation is indicative and may be revised after clarifications or further evaluation. It will support decision-making but does not determine the final recommendation. In addition to reviewing the information and declarations provided in your application form, Te Tauraki will request and assess further information from shortlisted applicants to confirm suitability to proceed to contract. This may include reference checks and verification of information provided.

We reserve the right to conduct any due diligence we consider necessary or appropriate in relation to the organisation behind the application, any named personnel, or any related entity. Information may be obtained from any source and assessed at any time up to and including contract execution. Based on this information, we may reject an application or take the information into account when making selection decisions.

To support our assessment, we may undertake one or more of the following:

- Additional interviews, site visits, or request presentations to the evaluation panel
- Reference checks
- Review policies, procedures, systems, and financial information
- Undertake checks through public registers, including the Companies Office and New Zealand Business Number register
- Complete credit, background, and police vetting checks for named personnel
- Undertake further due diligence on any related person or entity

Each pathway, including timelines, evaluation process and terms and conditions is detailed in the separate Funding Pathway Guidelines.

1.7 Funding period

Applicants must provide a budget showing how the proposed initiative would be delivered through to 30 June 2027, and how it could continue into FY2027/28 if extension funding is confirmed.

Applicants will show how the total requested funding would be phased across the initial delivery period and any potential extension period. The general expectation is that the proposed funding would be split evenly across the two financial years, unless there is a strong delivery, milestone, or cashflow reason for a different approach.

Any funding beyond 30 June 2027 will be conditional on Te Tauraki receiving confirmed funding from Te Puni Kōkiri and, where relevant, the provider meeting agreed contract milestones. This will be reflected in the final contract arrangements.

1.8 Our timeline

The timeline is as follows:

Activity	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
Application form released	15 June	Stage 1 application: 15 June
Online Briefing	22 June	22 June
Deadline for questions	26 June	26 June
Deadline for applications	17 July	10 July
Applicants notified of evaluation outcome, and successful candidates \$250,000+invited to participate in Stage 2	n/a	21 July
Stage 2 Submission due	n/a	12 August
Stage 2 Panel interview	n/a	17-21 August
Applicants notified of decision	By 16 October	By 16 October
Expected contract start date for successful applicants (latest)	November 2026	December 2026
Initial term of delivery	November to 30 June 2027	December to 30 June 2027


1.9 Katikaka kupu - Definitions


In relation to this funding opportunity the following words and expressions have the meanings described below.

Terminology	Definition
Application	The response submitted in reply to this funding opportunity. It comprises the online application form, and any other information submitted.
Application form	The form and declaration prescribed by us and used to respond to this funding opportunity, duly completed and submitted using the online form as part of their application. This form is included as Schedule 3 for information only.
Confidential information	<p>Confidential Information of a party (“Discloser”) means information acquired by the other party (“Recipient”) from the Discloser in connection with this Funding Application process, where that information:</p> <p>is by its nature confidential;</p> <p>is marked at the time of disclosure to the Recipient as ‘confidential’, ‘in confidence’, ‘restricted’; and/or</p> <p>the Recipient knows, or ought to know, is confidential to the Discloser or a third party who supplied it to the Discloser.</p> <p>However, this does not include information that is publicly available through no fault of the Recipient, or that the Recipient acquired entirely independently of the Discloser.</p>
Contract	Any written contract entered into by Te Tauraki and a successful application for the delivery of the requirements.
Deadline for applications	The deadline for delivering or submitting applications to Te Tauraki as stated in the relevant Pathway Funding Guidance document.
Electronic Application Form	The electronic form prescribed by us and used to respond to this funding opportunity, duly completed and submitted as part of the application.
Evaluation panel	A group of individuals selected by Te Tauraki, who are responsible for assessing and evaluating the submitted applications and making recommendations to the Te Tauraki Board.
Funding opportunity / guidance	This funding opportunity / guidance comprises this document and any other schedule, appendix or document attached to this document, and any subsequent information provided by Te Tauraki to service providers during the period of this funding opportunity.

Terminology	Definition
Intended contract	The contract terms and conditions proposed by Te Tauraki for the delivery of the requirements.
Requirements	Te Tauraki requirements for Te Kawe Oraka as described in section Error! Reference source not found. of this Guidance.
Service provider also 'applicant/s,' 'you,' or 'your'	A person, company or organisation that submits an application in response to this funding opportunity to provide services.
Te Tauraki also 'we,' 'us,' 'our'	Means Te Tauraki Limited, NZBN 9429050822775, having its registered office at 15 Show Place, Addington, Christchurch 8024, New Zealand, and being a wholly owned subsidiary of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Schedule 2 Whānau Ora Outcomes Framework

Whānau are self-managing and empowered leaders 		
<p>Short-term (1-4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More whānau develop pathways to independence, including from government assistance and intervention in their whānau life. • Whānau are knowledgeable about the capability that exists in their whānau network, and begin to tap into it. • Whānau decision-making and planning is informed by timely access to personal information and data which is held about them by government or other agencies. • Whānau are aware of their interests in assets held in common and knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities in regards to those assets. • Whānau are planning for emergencies, and taking appropriate action such as having insurance and plans for asset replacement. 	<p>Medium-term (5-10 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whānau are supported and enabled to take responsibility for their own lives and wellbeing. • Whānau are making informed choices about the support they require and who they access support from. • Whānau are able to draw on the skills of their own members to advance their collective interests. • Whānau are actively participating in the management and growth of assets held in common. • Whānau with disabilities participate equally in society. • Whānau use, and understand the point of using, data both quantitative and qualitative to inform their decisions making. 	<p>Long-term (11-25 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whānau exercise rangatiratanga on a daily basis by being self-managing, independent, and making informed decisions. • Whānau recognise they are repositories of knowledge about themselves and their communities, and they contribute to their communities' understanding of them. • Whānau determine the nature of their own leadership according to their own traditions. They value and grow their leadership that represents their notions of a leader. • Whānau are self-determining in the management, control and aims they determine for their collective assets and resources.

Whānau are leading healthy lifestyles 		
<p>Short-term (1-4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of whānau are setting and achieving personal health goals for their physical, emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing. • Increased number of whānau are improving their knowledge and practice in healthy eating and physical activity. • Whānau are managing chronic health conditions, including eczema, asthma and diabetes. And know when and how to access support to manage their conditions. 	<p>Medium-term (5-10 years)</p> <p>Whānau can model to other whānau members their ability to take personal responsibility for their own health and wellbeing by making choices about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living drug free and smoke free. • Maintaining a healthy weight for their age and height. • Achieving exercise and fitness regimes for heart health. • Monitoring regularly the efficacy of their prescribed medicines or medical devices in conjunction with health professionals. • Engaging in health screening programmes. • The quality of the interpersonal relationships they have. 	<p>Long-term (11-25 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whānau have a quality of life that meets their health needs and goals across their lifespan. • Whānau members enjoy positive and functional relationships with others to meet their health needs and goals across their lifespan. • Whānau are health literate and they have access to evidence-based information to make decisions about their health needs and goals. • Whānau have timely access to exemplary and culturally adept health and disability services to meet their health needs and goals.

Whānau are participating fully in society



Short-term (1-4 years)

- Rangatahi Māori are achieving NCEA level 2 as a minimum qualification, and increasing numbers are achieving level 3.
- Increased number of tamariki and mokopuna enrolled and attending early childhood education.
- Increased number of whānau entering tertiary education or other advanced areas of learning and leaving with qualifications.
- Increased number of whānau exercising their right to vote in national and local council elections.
- Increased number of whānau engaged in sport and/or clubs or other community groups including kapa haka and waka ama.
- Whānau are choosing the services they wish to access, on the basis of good information.
- Whānau are confident to access services and advocate in their own right.
- Successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate whānau who have had contact with the corrections system back into communities.

Medium-term (5-10 years)

- Whānau identify the added value they bring to a school community.
- Whānau can articulate the importance of early childhood education to the preparation of their children's future.
- Whānau choose and access culturally adept schools for their children's learning.
- Whānau can articulate and implement healthy living habits in the home that will support their children's educational success.
- Rangatahi are achieving the knowledge, skills sets and qualifications to pursue training and employment that provides them with financial security and career options.
- More whānau members are trained and serving as public, community & cultural leaders.
- Whānau have access to quality and timely services that are fully responsive to whānau priorities and whānau values.

Long-term (11-25 years)

- Whānau can demonstrate educational success by an increase in the number of Māori entering higher learning and professional careers.
- Whānau have opportunities for formal learning that equips them with the skills and knowledge to follow their chosen path to employment, advanced learning or selffulfilment.
- Whānau are enjoying educational success across all ages.
- Whānau recognise, value and nurture leadership that supports and enables them.
- Whānau leaders actively engage with community leaders and institutions for collective good.

Whānau and families are participating confidently in Te Ao Māori - the Māori world



Short-term (1-4 years)

- Increased numbers of whānau take up Te Reo Māori programmes.
- Increased number of whānau participating in Iwi or cultural events or activities.
- Increased number of whānau registered with their iwi are exercising their democratic right in tribal elections.

Medium-term (5-10 years)

- Whānau participate in their community using their language of choice.
- Whānau access cultural knowledge, engage in knowledge creation, and transfer that knowledge amongst themselves.

Long-term (11-25 years)

- Whānau are secure in their cultural identity as Māori and actively participate in activities and events that celebrate their cultural make-up.
- Whānau are confident and proud that they are at least bi-lingual in Te Reo Māori and English/Te Reo Māori and NZ Sign, and able to transfer that knowledge to their members.
- Whānau access opportunities to be immersed in their culture and language in their communities.
- Whānau are major contributors to the cultural vibrancy and development of their own communities.

Whānau and families are economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation

Short-term (1-4 years)

- Increased uptake by whānau in business training, skills acquisition, education and professional development.
- Increased numbers of whānau are self-employed, and whānau businesses are growing.
- Increased number of whānau improving their financial literacy.
- Whānau are engaged in savings and investment.

Medium-term (5-10 years)

- Increasing numbers of whānau are engaged in business, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- Increasing numbers of whānau own their own businesses or benefit from the improved productivity and prosperity of their businesses.
- Whānau see improvements in the value of business they own.
- Whānau have increased financial literacy, improved access to capital and a practice of saving for key 'life' milestones.
- Whānau achieve at least a living wage.

Long-term (11-25 years)

- Whānau business leaders are innovative, entrepreneurial and successful.
- Whānau are active participants in research and development that advances their prosperity.
- Whānau are employed in occupations and positions that provide them with the income to achieve the standard of living they aspire to.
- Whānau have the knowledge and skills to manage their assets that enable them to achieve their life long aspirations.

Whānau are cohesive, resilient and nurturing

Short-term (1-4 years)

- Parents build skills and strategies to nurture and care and provide for their children.
- Where necessary, whānau address violence, addiction, substance abuse, and risk of selfharm through increased uptake of affordable and culturally appropriate support services.
- Increase the number of tamariki from vulnerable whānau who are attending school on a regular basis.
- Relationships between partners are strong and supportive.
- Whānau are developing nurturing environments that provide for their physical, emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing.

Medium-term (5-10 years)

- Whānau live in homes that are free from abuse and violence.
- Whānau transform their lives through support from rehabilitation services (when needed).
- Whānau are confident to address crises and challenges.
- Whānau are stable, organised, and provide their tamariki with the best possible start in life.
- Whānau understand the importance of school attendance and support and encourage their tamariki and mokopuna to attend school.
- Rangatahi are supported and nurtured in their transition to adulthood.

Long-term (11-25 years)

- Whānau relationships are positive, functional and uplifting of all members.
- Interpersonal skills between whānau members have improved and whānau conduct positive relationships and demonstrate good parenting.
- Whānau experience and contribute to the development and maintenance of safe and nurturing environments for themselves and their communities.
- Whānau access communication technology to sustain engagement with each other.
- All members of a whānau are valued.

Whānau and families are responsible stewards of their living and natural environments

Short-term (1-4 years)

- Increased opportunity for whānau to participate in environmental management practices.
- Increased number of whānau accessing services to improve the health of their homes.

Medium-term (5-10 years)

- Whānau are active participants and contributors to responsible and sustainable environmental management.
- Whānau access a range of housing options and the support required to pursue those options.
- Whānau are increasingly satisfied with their housing situation.
- Whānau increase the use of their land to provide housing, sustenance and food for themselves.

Long-term (11-25 years)

- Whānau exercise mana whakahaere (authority and control) and mana-kaitiaki over their natural environment.
- Whānau lead sustainable management of their natural environment.
- Whānau cultural, physical and spiritual wellness is nurtured by their access to, and engagement with, their natural environment.
- Whānau have choices about their living arrangements and in all cases, their living environment is safe, secure, warm, dry.