



Te Mana Tikitiki

Mā te rākai o te Tikitiki - ka titiro te mana
Through the adornment of the topknot, one's skills and knowledge are recognized.



TE MANA TIKITIKI - ABOUT THE NAME

When Māui was born his mother cut off her top knot (tikitiki), wrapped Māui in it and cast him into the ocean.

Her name was Taranga.

The full name used for Maui is, Māui-Tikitiki-a-Taranga:
'Māui who was wrapped in the topknot of Taranga'.

A feather in a topknot can be seen as a sign of nobility and mana. This is what we hope the students will learn and gain from the Te Mana Tikitiki programme.

ABOUT THE TOHU

The koru are representations of each parent, the female seed and the male seed.

The two koru represent Te Ira Tāne and Te Ira Wahine.

A tīwhana is a moko on the forehead. Like a tikitiki this may also show a person's mana.

ABOUT THE TOHU'S COLOURS

Kōuka is a pigment made from the earth and used in Māori craft, when Kōuka is mixed with oil it will turn dark red. The dark earthy red represents Papatūānuku (Earth mother) and the grey represents Tangaroa (God of the Sea).

ABOUT THIS PROGRAMME

Te Mana Tikitiki is a home-grown behaviour programme which uses tikanga and te reo Māori to build resilience, self esteem and confidence to uplift the mana of young Māori learners and improve learning and achievement.

Te Mana Tikitiki is a school-based programme. Over one term, in 10, one hour sessions, students undertake activity-based learning about Māori language and culture. The programme is comprised of five modules. Schools select three modules based on student's interest and needs. The modules are: Te reo Māori (Māori language), Taonga puoro (musical instruments), Mau rākau (stick movements), Toi Māori (art), and Waiata (song). The programme has recently been manualised. The manual will be tested and refined in 2014.

Te Mana Tikitiki is targeted at Māori students aged 8-12 years, ideally 8-9 years (for early intervention) whose behaviour has been identified as challenging or disruptive. The group size per programme can range from 6 to 15 students. The composition of the core group is – 1 student who has been referred (the kākano), 2 students not officially referred/applied, but exhibit similar behaviours and 2-3 students who model pro-social skills. It is delivered by two kaitakawaenga (Ministry of Education cultural advisors) and makes use of tuakana - teina relationships with mentors. Te Mana Tikitiki ends with a 'graduation' which allows whānau and others to recognise the participants and their achievement.

Te Mana Tikitiki sits within the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) Kaupapa Māori work programme.

WHAKAPAPA (BACKGROUND)

In 2001, the Ministry of Education collaborated with Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei and created a programme called Te Mana Tikitiki. The programme was a local response to the growing numbers of Māori boys referred to specialist education services for severe behaviour. In 2002, Te Mana Tikitiki was successfully piloted and referrals opened the following year for the Auckland region. The programme has been running in Auckland for the past 12 years.

Lessons learnt from programme delivery over 12 years shows implementing in term 2 and 3 works best for schools and students, and early intervention in the younger years (8-9 years) is most effective. Originally the programme was delivered in te reo Māori, however this has changed to meet the needs and language proficiency of learners and teachers involved in the programme – current delivery is primarily in English.

Monitoring and evaluation data (qualitative and quantitative) to date indicates Te Mana Tikitiki has resulted in:

- increased student engagement (i.e. more positive interactions in school and at home; positive participation)
- increased positive communication (i.e. positive talking)

- increased levels of student connectedness (i.e. sharing, taking an interest, connecting with whānau who have a cultural interest)
- changes in physical wellbeing (i.e. more positive demeanour and appearance, energy levels, alertness, positive body language)
- increased student self concept levels (i.e. knowing who they are and where they come from)
- increased students level of motivation and inspiration and drive in the classroom and at home.

PROJECT AIMS

The objectives of the Te Mana Tikitiki project are to:

- Increase resilience and self belief in Māori learners;
- Improve learning and achievement outcomes for Māori learners and their whānau;
- Provide a positive opportunity for whānau to engage in their child's learning;
- Develop a partnering approach with Iwi (to ensure the programme reflects Iwitanga) for expansion in 2014/2015 (potentially Awakairangi and/or Te Whanganui-a-Tara).

POTENTIAL EXPANSION

The Ministry is exploring the option to expand the programme in the Central South Region, particularly in the Hutt Valley area, working in partnership with Te Āti Awa. The intent is to partner with Iwi to build their capability to deliver the programme to learners in the local area, as well as infuse and embed local kawa, tikanga and reo into the manual. Te Āti Awa is the mana whenua of the Hutt Valley/Wellington region and this project provides the opportunity for the Ministry to recognise rangatiratanga and the important role iwi play as guardians of cultural integrity.

For more information:

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