



**Te Puni Kōkiri**  
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

## Ngā Wātene Māori Māori Wardens



Photos courtesy of The Waikato Times,  
The Daily Post and ALAC

From their beginnings more than 60 years ago, Māori Wardens have always been seen as respected volunteers working within Māori communities. The role they play today in interceding or liaising on issues ranging from health and safety through to education, youth assistance and whānau support is recognised and valued more than ever.



Photo courtesy of ALAC

*"One of the strengths of Māori Wardens is their intimate knowledge of, and deep connection with, their local communities. That is why the Labour-led Government is committing more resources for them to continue their important work. And it is why this government also supports establishing nationally-consistent training and support to ensure they have the most positive impact."*

– Minister of Māori Affairs, Parekura Horomia.

### THE PACKAGE

In recognition of that work, the Government committed \$2.5 million in Budget 2007 to realising the potential of Māori Wardens. An investment package for one year was instigated in July 2007 and will be piloted in six regions:

- Taitokerau
- Tāmaki Makaurau
- Waikato (including Hauraki/Maniapoto)
- Waiariki (including Taupō)
- Tairāwhiti
- Takitimu.

The support package is an integrated suite of investments, centred on increasing the capacity and capability of Māori Wardens to work within their communities. It has also been designed with a view to putting Māori Wardens on a more secure financial footing in the long term.

The proposed investments include:

- **Regional Project Co-ordination**  
To provide a project co-ordinator specifically responsible for implementation of the project in each identified region.
- **A Funding Pool**  
To allow for the increased development of local-level initiatives and for the implementation of national initiatives targeted at Māori youth. These initiatives will be endorsed by the Māori wardens who will be instrumental in delivering them.
- **Training and Development**  
To ensure wardens receive consistent and relevant training it is envisaged that a two week programme will be provided for each warden. Where necessary, assistance will be received from key professionals from other sectors. This training and support will ensure that wardens become equipped with the full range of skills needed to support their communities at the levels in which they operate.

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• **Improved Resources**

To ensure wardens are effectively equipped to support their communities, funding will include the purchase of portable radios to enable wardens to keep in contact with each other; enhancements to the current uniforms, including the provision of warm, waterproof and high visibility outer wear; and access to appropriate vehicles for community patrols.

• **Marketing and Promotion**

To attract further volunteers, particularly younger volunteers, a revitalised marketing campaign is planned. This will include radio interviews and promotions, as well as opportunities in the print media to raise the profile of wardens.

■ **BEYOND 2007**

Funding has been allocated in support of this project for one year from July 2007. Following a review of its design and implementation, ongoing funding to extend the programme across all Māori Wardens regions will be sought from Government.

One of the pre-requisites for any extension of funding is the establishment of a national entity that meets the Government's requirements. This entity will ultimately hold and administer these resources and may, in time, assume responsibility for the governance and management of Māori Wardens across all regions. In order to address this issue, the Māori Wardens Advisory Group has been established.

■ **THE MAORI WARDENS ADVISORY GROUP**

The Māori Wardens Advisory Group has been established to identify and examine future options for the management and governance of the Māori wardens and their resources. It is expected that the governing legislation (the Māori Community Development Act 1962) will also be examined as part of the Advisory Group's work.

The Advisory Group will:

- Establish the vision and strategic goals of the Māori Wardens
- Confirm the key functions of the Māori Wardens
- Describe an appropriate organisational and governance structure.



Photo courtesy of The Waikato Times

■ **BACKGROUND**

The roles, functions and powers of Māori Wardens are provided for in the Māori Community Development Act 1962. It is administered by the Minister of Māori Affairs. The Act provides for the:

- Establishment and powers of a four-tier Māori Association structure, from Māori Committees at a community level through to the New Zealand Māori Council, the National Executive representative of all Committees, and District Councils established under the Act.
- Appointment (and discharge) of Māori Wardens by the Minister of Māori Affairs further to recommendations from local District Māori Councils.

In addition to the New Zealand Māori Council some wardens are also represented by the New Zealand Māori Wardens Association Inc, a body established in 1980.

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