

Umere Submission to the:

Māori Language Strategy Consultation 2014

Te Puni Kōkiri

PO Box 3943, Wellington 6011.

mlssub@tpk.govt.nz. (Due 28 February 2014)

Taku ingoa: Mere Skerrett (name)

Tēnā rā koe Dr Pita Sharples

I support the points that I have ticked in the adjacent box (if no boxes are ticked, or if all boxes are ticked, I support all the points in this submission).

- The consultation period for this renewed Māori Language Strategy is too short; the documents are difficult to find and/or access, and the period between the announcement on 3 February 2014 regarding the consultation and the hui themselves is too short.
- I have not had enough time to think over the documents and discuss the implications with my whānau/hapū. I therefore request that Te Puni Kōkiri extend the consultation period for the Strategy.
- To give new energy and to support te reo Māori, the new Strategy needs to include initiatives that reach most communities, and needs to move past the status quo, which we know isn't working, because our reo is still declining.
- I would like to see more te reo Māori in the public arena, particularly in areas where it has been relegated below foreign languages. I think rules should be put in place to put te reo Māori on an equal footing with English as per its official status in NZ law (E.g., ATMs have other languages, but not te reo Māori as an option).
- I would like the government to identify gaps in Māori language education and move to fill them. E.g., (1) In areas where Māori-medium education is hard to access, provide government support for locals to set up Kura Māori; (2) make te reo Māori and bilingual theory a requirement of initial teacher education and teacher professional development.
- In order to address the continued decline of te reo Māori, the

Strategy needs to include a jobs and careers component. Our efforts and taxpayers money are being wasted if there are no jobs to keep our young Māori speakers in our communities in Aotearoa.



In order to raise the status of te reo Māori in Aotearoa, it needs to be supported from the top. The PM, MPs, community leaders and broadcasters need to commit to supporting te reo personally, beginning with correct pronunciation, and by learning te reo.



The Strategy needs to have far reaching influence. Our language cannot be revitalised in a vacuum. I would like to see the Strategy have links to, for example, the economic, health, and justice needs of Māori.



In order to thrive, te reo Māori needs to flourish in the hearts and minds of all our people. For this to occur, the Strategy must reflect that wider issues need to be addressed by the Government. These wider issues include: a living wage for all, and making government agencies (such as police, health, education and WINZ) Māori and Māori language friendly.

He mihi nui ki a koe, ki a koutou

Signed

