



NGATI MAKINO HERITAGE TRUST

28 February 2014

Nga Mihi,

Please find attached a submission from Ngati Makino Iwi Heritage Trust on the proposed new Maori Language Strategy. We would appreciate being kept in the loop on any further information and developments pertaining to the new strategy and the reform of the Maori Language Act.

We have attempted to respond to all questions though some responses over-lap so not all questions have been included in the submission.

E noho ora mai

Jimi McLean

General Manager

Ngati Makino Heritage Trust // Ngati Makino Iwi Authority

Key Questions

The Government's Proposed Māori Language Strategy 2013

General

- **Is the Government's proposed Māori Language Strategy an effective and appropriate way for the Government to support the revitalisation of the Māori language? Why/Why not?**

Whilst there are some good points and ideas in the proposed Maori Language strategy, we have doubts about how it will emerge into achievable programmes at the flax roots level. Our over-all impression is that there is an over-emphasis on bureaucracy.

We believe that there should be an emphasis on whanau and others who are not learning the Reo and engaging them in learning te Reo. We don't think the recommended new structures and arrangement will be as effective as they could be in reaching these people. Whilst developing dialects, research etc. we agree is required and important, the focus of the reforms whilst saying the right things, still seems to be on advancing the reo of those already privileged to have the reo.

You have said and we agree, that we need more people speaking the language. We believe you need to focus resources and energy on Maori who are not speaking the language or learning it and ask them why they are not and use those answers to develop new initiatives or perhaps streamline existing ones to better reach non-speaking whanau. Whilst developing targets is what one would expect, there is a gap in between doing that and assessing whether the target has been reached. Its called learning programmes. Research resources need to be urgently put in that domain. The focus of the research as proposed and the proposed strategy is more about preparing for Te Reo to be a museum language.

- **What else would you like to see in the Government's proposed Māori Language Strategy?**

The Ministry of Education needs to be made more accountable for how the Reo funding they waste is being spent. This accountability should be to Maori. Our experience is that Te Reo funding is often used to prop up incompetent teachers – e.g. remedial reading

developments. Our experience also strongly suggests that the Teachers Union movement has had and still does have a part in constraining the promotion of Te Reo Maori in the education system.

E.g. At present schools DO NOT have to spend Te Reo funding on Te Reo Maori. An excellent teacher of Te Reo Maori will not have that skill recognised in the ladder to principalship, this is in a large part due to Unions deciding what is a worthwhile skill and advancing the needs of their majority members. The schools do not have to produce outcomes or be accountable for that Te Reo funding. Neither have ERO been responsible monitors of Te Reo funding outcomes.

Good and excellent Maori speaking teachers should be acknowledged and incorporated in your strategy as a specialist advisory group. That is, practitioners of second language teaching, especially primary schools, or those with experience in teaching Te Reo at primary school level should have a place as of right throughout the 4 organizations proposed in the plan. Not every Maori speaking Maori is a good teacher; more emphasis needs to be given to developing good teachers and acknowledging those who are. It is skills in second language teaching that are needed, not necessarily fluent Maori speakers. Our reason for including primary teachers is that they are in touch with whanau and in a good place to provide advice on why:

1. Whanau send their children to mainstream schools and
2. Advice on ways that you can reach those whanau who are not engaged in learning Te Reo Maori
3. Contribute to developing targeted te reo learning programmes

Good teachers of Maori are a taonga. They are engaging with whanau who do not speak Te Reo Maori on a daily basis and our experience is that they add value to informing Te Reo Maori planning. They need a real place in this strategy. Also if such a teacher is not teaching in their tribal rohe, how do they get to contribute to a Te Reo strategy. We need to provide a place for learners and teachers who are not living in their tribal rohe.

We also think that the top down approach has excluded women. How many women are "lwi leaders"?

Ngä Whäinga – Key Results

- **The result areas cover acquisition (Te Ako i te Reo), status (Te Mana o Te Reo), quality (Te Kounga o Te Reo), corpus, and use (Te Körerotanga o te Reo). What are your thoughts on these?**

See above. Too much emphasis on the frills. Te Ako I te Reo and Te Körerotanga o te Reo should be the priority focus. The other two are important as subsets only, they should not be the priority.

- **Are there any other high level results that we need to focus on? Why?**

Target audience(s)

- **Who should be our key target audience(s) for each of the proposed result areas? Mäori or non-Mäori? All New Zealanders, or te reo Mäori speakers only? People with active Mäori language skills, or people with passive Mäori language skills? Mäori in Australia and abroad?**

Given all our points above, and our support for Te Körerotanga o te Reo, we believe the target audience should be Maori who do not speak Te Reo. Only Maori have the ongoing, inter-generational commitment to Te Reo to ensure its survival. Identity re-inforcing we know is good for our people and should be compulsory component of an education system, mainstream or any other. This means Te Reo Maori should be taught to all Maori. If you include non-Maori in your strategy you are wasting time and resources. We all know the dominant group is extremely efficient at co-opting resources to meet their needs. This is not to exclude anyone, but they need to fit into what's good for Maori.

- **Should engagement with whänau Mäori, hapü and iwi that have language priorities, goals, plans/strategies be prioritised?**

We think it should be a priority. However for our whanau who live outside the rohe and even in Australia, we worry about how their needs will be met. Therefore the groups who

might cater for their needs might not be whanau, hapu or Iwi. We would like to ensure that they have access to Te Reo Maori learning opportunities that meet their particular circumstances. The practicalities prevent us at home doing anything substantial for them.

Same applies in our rohe, we would encourage any Te Reo revival group who are producing good outcomes i.e. more Maori speakers of Te Reo Maori. Ngati Makino would like to support them as well,

For our Iwi at home, we are about to commence developing our education plan. Te Reo and tikanga sustainability is a key vision. However, from our initial research and liaison with other iwi education personnel, we see resources as a key impediment, both human and funding.

Whilst part of our planning is to establish a Te Kohanga Reo or an early child education facility and a kura kaupapa or similar, we have already identified that being able to attract skilled, capable teachers will be the biggest barrier. As important will be the development of whanau ora plans alongside our education planning. They go hand in hand. Bureaucracy we see as the biggest barrier. It occupies our time and resources which often are not recouped. If we invest time and money in our education and whanau ora planning, will there be seamless funding arrangements (long-term) with the various Government agencies to enable proper realisation of our objectives? Can we get a realistic commitment to funding? Or will we be every year having to worry about whether there will be any funding? Not having certainty over long-term funding restricts our ability to attract the best teachers and sustain a long term Te Reo revival programme. Is there a way in the Te Reo Maori reforms can ensure the proper resourcing of Iwi plans to address the problems as we have indicated?

Ngā Mātāpono – Key Principles

• **The principles cover empowering whānau and iwi (Whakamana Whānau, Whakapiki Iwi), strengthening Māori leadership (Kia Tū Rangatira ai te Ao Māori), and improving access to Māori language programmes (Mahi Tōtika). What are your thoughts on these?**

• **Are there any other principals that we need to focus on? Why?**

As we have said before, the strategy needs to focus on engaging more Maori in the learning process and going from there – targeted research which responds with targeted programmes. What are the barriers to Maori learning te Reo Maori.

Te Aronga o Te Taura Whiri ki ngā Whānau me ngā Iwi

- **How can Te Taura Whiri better support iwi language planning?**

With respect, they have had a good go and for all the money they spend we are apparently going backwards. Too elitist perhaps? The test is if we did away with them would the language learners miss them?

Fund the Iwi co-option of excellent Te Reo Maori teachers to assist with planning. Top up the salary of excellent Te Reo Maori teachers (as judged by their history and outcomes) so that moving to small, poor tribal schools does not disadvantage them. Include a kete of resources to accompany them so that they are able to integrate the Iwi's whānau ora planning with their education planning and implementation.

Ngā Hangarau o te Ao Hou

- **How important is access to, education and use of modern communications technology to Māori language revitalisation?**

While it is another tool, and therefore should not be dismissed, it should not be elevated in the scheme of things above other tools. Getting more socio-cultural research going on how to engage more Maori in learning Te Reo is more important. We think you are putting the cart before the horse.

- **Through the Māori Language Strategy how can we further support te reo Māori through ICT (Information, and Communications Technology)?**

- **How could the proposed Māori ICT Development Fund benefit whānau Māori?**

See above response.

• What do you believe is the role that Māori should play in the revitalisation of the Māori language?

• How else can Government support the strengthening of whānau, hapū, and iwi language development?

For our iwi of Ngati Makino:

- Fund our iwi Te Reo planning and implementation
- Ensure that whanau ora programmes can work alongside the iwi education planning and implementation
- Fund groups who are committed (by their records) to Te Reo Maori teaching.
- Better recognition of excellent Te Reo Maori teachers so that we can attract them to our school and kohanga
- Better targeting of programmes to suit the particular whanau environment
- Spend less on bureaucracy
- Provide a resource we can call on of excellent second language learning teachers.

Kia Tū Rangatira Ai Te Ao Māori

Whakapakari

Mahi Ngātahi

• Where would you raise, discuss and channel your language concerns or issues to be addressed? Would your language interests benefit from participating in annual language forum alongside other language organisations?

Yes and liaising with other Te Reo forums locally.

• Do you believe that this forum would be an effective way for the Crown and Māori to confer on progress with the new Māori Language Strategy?

Yes, as long as Maori were also getting accountability at a similar level from the MOE.

Te Mātāwai

- **Do you agree with the proposal that iwi participate in the selection of members of the three Māori language entities?**

Yes

- **What should a new governance model look like for these entities? Why?**
- **What is an alternative model?**
- **Are the proposed actions effective ways in which the Crown can support Māori language leadership?**

Yes though Taura whiri need to be made more accountable or reformed.

- **Through the Māori Language Strategy, how else can Government support the enablement of iwi language leadership?**

Already answered.

Mahi Tōtika

Ngā Tohu Reo rua

- **To what degree should bilingual signage be available, and in what places?**

I nga wa katoa

- **How will bilingual signage affect you? Do you think bilingual signage is a good idea?**

Yes, it a good idea. It is a reminder of the rightful place of Te Reo in Aotearoa.

- **Does it increase status of te reo, contribute towards normalising te reo Māori, and provide exposure?**

Yes.

- **Are there any Māori language programmes or services that should take priority in terms of evaluating its success and value for money?**
- **What research gaps need prioritising in terms of te reo Māori?**

He Whakahoutanga i te Ture mö te reo Māori

We suggest that research on identifying reasons whanau and Maori in various rohe and environments, e.g. rural to highly urbanised, who are not learning Maori, would reveal gaps and therefore priorities should be directed to developing programmes of learning that meets their needs if we are going to develop more speakers.

- **What are your aspirations for a new Māori Language Act?**
- **What should be considered during the Acts review?**

That Ngati Makino can get assurances that the resources for their Te Reo Maori planning and implementation is going to be available and sustainable.

