This fact sheet provides a summary of the main findings of “The Health of the Māori Language in Te Taitokerau 2006” report.¹ This report draws on a variety of research to provide a composite picture of the Māori language in the region; including: Census data; Health of the Māori Language (HML) survey data; education statistics; observations from national research; and information from language planners and community representatives working in Te Taitokerau. The full report is available at www.tpk.govt.nz.

MĀORI LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE AND PROFICIENCY

According to the 2006 Census, the Māori language rate for Māori adults in Te Taitokerau is 32%, among an adult Māori population of 27,900.

Te Taitokerau has the second highest Māori language rate among the eight regions in the HML Survey. The HML Survey shows that more people can understand the Māori language (46%) than speak it (29%).²

There are significant differences in the proportion of Māori language speakers across age groups. For those people aged up to fifty-five, the Māori speaking rate is 25%, whereas for those people aged fifty-five or over the rate is 51%. However, the population of Māori...
speakers aged over fifty-five is small compared to the population in younger age bands. Older speakers are also more proficient in the Māori language than young adult speakers.

Since 2001, there have been marginal shifts in Māori language proficiencies within the Māori population in the region. For example: speaking proficiency has decreased slightly from 32% in 2001 to 29% in 2006, and listening proficiency has decreased slightly from 47% in 2001 to 46% in 2006.¹

Fifty-one percent of Māori adults are dissatisfied with their level of proficiency in the Māori language and desire to increase their language skill levels.

MĀORI LANGUAGE USE

International research on language revitalisation suggests that for minority languages like Māori to survive, intergenerational transmission is required.

Māori speakers are clustered together and are not spread evenly throughout the Māori population. Forty-two percent of Māori households in Te Taitokerau have at least one Māori language speaker. In nearly half of these households there is only one speaker, limiting the possibility of language use in the home.

Thirty-four percent of children or dependants live in households where there is at least one adult speaker of te reo, meaning that acquisition through intergenerational transmission is possible.

For people with Māori language skills, use of te reo Māori in the home has increased overall since 2001, especially in communications between adults and children, and adults and their parents. For example: Māori language interactions between adults

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|MĀORI WITH MĀORI LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES BY AGE|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age grouping</th>
<th>No. of people with Māori language competencies</th>
<th>Total population size</th>
<th>Māori language rate</th>
<th>Proportion of all Māori with Māori language competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 14</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>15,582</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 34</td>
<td>2,985</td>
<td>11,841</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 54</td>
<td>3,159</td>
<td>10,617</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>2,787</td>
<td>5,490</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2006.

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Heoi, ko te tokomaha o rātou neke atu i te 55 tau, he paku mehemea ka whakatauritehia ki te tokomaha o rātou kei raro iho i te 55 tau. Ka mutu, he matatau ake te reo o te hunga 55 neke atu, tērā i te hunga taipakeke.

Mai i te tau 2001 kua kitea ētahi nekehanga paku noa ki roto i te matatāu o ngā kaihōrō o te taua Māori o ētene rohe. Hei tauira: kua piki haere te matatāu kōrero mai i 29% i te tau 2001 ki 32% i te tau 2006. Ko te matatāu whakarongo kua paku heke iho mai i 47% i te tau 2001 ki 46% i te tau 2006.¹

Rima tekau mā tahi ērā o ngā pakeke Māori kei te wenewene mō tō rātou taumata matatāu ki te reo Māori, ā, kei te pirangi tonia kia whakapiki i o rātou taumata pūkenga reo.

E ai ki ngā rangahau o te ao whānui e pā ana ki te whakaoratanga o te reo, e ora tonu ai ngā reo itinga pērā i te reo Māori, me tuku iho taua reo mai i tētahi whakatipuranga ki tētahi anō.

Kei te noho toipo to ngā kaihōrō Māori, ā, kāore i te tauaite te tohatoha putia noa i te taupori Māori. Whā tekau mā rau ērā o ngā kāinga Māori ki Te Taitokerau, kotahi te kaihōrō, neke atu rānei. Kei roto i te āhua haurua o ētene kāinga, kotahi anake te kaihōrō, nā reira he whātū noa ngā mea angitū kia kōrerohia te reo Māori ki ētene kāinga.

Toru tekau mā whā ērā o ngā tamarike i noho ana ki ngā kāinga, kei roto nei he kaihōrō pakeke kotahi, neke atu rānei. Nā reira ka taea te tuku iho te reo Māori mai i tētahi whakatipuranga ki tētahi atu.

Mō ngā tāngata whai pūkenga reo Māori, kua piki te whakamahinga o te reo ki te kāinga mai te tau 2001, tae ake anō ki ngā whitinga kōrero i waenga i ngā pakeke Māori me a rātou tamaiki, mātua hoki. Hei tauira: Ko ngā whitinga kōrero i waenga i ngā pakeke me a rātou
and their pre-school children have increased from 71% in 2001 to 78% in 2006; Māori language interactions between adults and their secondary school-aged children have increased from 58% in 2001 to 80% in 2006; and, Māori language interactions between adults and their parents have increased from 57% in 2001 to 72% in 2006. While this is a positive indicator of the occurrence of intergenerational transmission, communication patterns in the home have not yet reached a level where the Māori language is considered the primary means of communication.

The use of the Māori language in the community remains most common in Māori cultural domains such as at hui or on the marae. The Māori language is not the primary means of communication in other everyday activities within the community setting.

Māori language use by Māori adults in the home

PROVISION OF MĀORI LANGUAGE SERVICES

The ability of people to develop their Māori language skills depends in part on opportunities to access te reo. The HML 2006 Survey gathered information on Māori radio and television, which shows that access rates and listening rates are high. Nearly all Māori adults in Te Taitokerau have access to Māori radio and television.

Eighteen percent of Māori adults are learning te reo to some degree. This is a high percentage, and reflects the positive disposition Māori have towards the language.

There are around 1,300 Māori children attending te reo based early childhood services in Te Taitokerau.

Schools in the region provide for around 3,200 Māori children learning in te reo to some degree. This is 23% of the Māori student population in Te Taitokerau.

CONCLUSIONS

Since the last HML Survey in 2001, the general health of the Māori language in Te Taitokerau has improved. The report provides valuable information to inform the work of language planners. Some of the issues revealed in the report have already been identified through the development of a language strategy for the Far North. Over the next five years, the combined efforts of iwi and community groups have the potential to further improve the picture of language health in Te Taitokerau.

1 For our reporting purposes, Te Taitokerau is defined as the Northland region encompassing the Far North, Whāngarei and Kaipara District Councils.
2 For more detailed data, refer to the full report.
3 Amongst Māori adults who can speak Māori fairly well, well or very well.
4 These percentages combine the percentage of Māori adults who used the Māori language as a significant language of communication and the percentage of Māori adults who made some use of the Māori language in their interactions.