

## Te Tohu Reo Māori Award

Te Tohu Reo Māori Award will recognise the practice of kaiako Māori who are teaching te reo Māori. The recipient will have made an outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of te reo Māori over at least four years.

This is an opportunity to celebrate our unsung heroes of te reo Māori from the flax roots level to the heights of academia in the broad effort to normalise te reo Māori again in Aotearoa. Nominations are encouraged from right across the tertiary sector.

This award differs from other Te Whatu Kairangi Awards as there is a three-step nomination process. Step 1 is a nominator's outline of the kaiako's teaching and their impact. Step 2 is a shortlisting process and of those nominations that go forward their workplace will be contacted to seek their endorsement of the nominated kaiako and to confirm they fulfil the requirements such as the four years length of service. Step 3 is the nominees will be contacted and informed of their nomination. They will be asked to endorse their nomination and provide additional information (4 pages maximum).

One award of \$15,000 is available.

### Criteria and Nomination Process

#### Step 1: Nomination

Nominate a kaiako Māori who is teaching te reo Māori. Use the Word Template provided at the Ako Aotearoa website and submit it via the website. The nomination should be no more than two pages.

The nominator/s should provide the following information about the kaiako Māori they are nominating:

- A description of what it is like to be, or have been, a student in the kaiako's classroom; or a colleague or peer of that kaiako.
- The impact the kaiako has on their learners, and, where applicable, on whānau, hapū, iwi and wider communities; and on te reo Māori revitalisation.
- Evidence of impact of their teaching (where possible) e.g., reputation, popularity, student numbers, evaluation feedback.
- Contributions made by the kaiako to their learners' ability to understand, speak, read, and write te reo Māori.
- Outstanding and unique aspects of their abilities as a kaiako of te reo Māori.
- Creativity of their approach.
- What inspired you to nominate the kaiako.

To catch the attention of the judges, nominators should focus on and highlight the special and outstanding characteristics of the nominated kaiako. Nominations close for this step at 5:00pm, 19 April 2024.

#### Step 2: Shortlist and endorsement from employer

There will be a shortlisting process led by the Kaihautū Mātauranga Māori of Ako Aotearoa. The employer of each shortlisted kaiako will be contacted by staff of Ako Aotearoa to seek their endorsement of the nominated kaiako (if the nominator was not their employer) and to confirm the kaiako fulfils the requirements such as the four years length of service.

#### Step 3: Nominee provides extra information

The shortlisted nominees who meet the full requirements will be contacted and informed of their nomination. They will be asked to endorse their nomination and to provide the following information (4 pages maximum):

- Their pepeha details.
- Their te reo Māori teaching background/context with adult learners e.g., where they have taught, for how long, and to whom.
- Their beliefs about teaching te reo Māori.
- Their commitment to teaching te reo Māori and to Māori learner success.
- Highlights of being a kaiako of te reo Māori.
- Impacts on learners, and, where applicable, whānau, hapū, iwi and wider communities; and on te reo Māori revitalisation.
- Evidence of impact, where possible e.g., reputation, popularity, student numbers, evaluation feedback.
- Contribution to learners' ability to understand, speak, read and write te reo Māori.
- Outstanding and unique abilities as a kaiako of te reo Māori.
- Creativity of approach.

To catch the attention of the judges, nominees should focus on and highlight their special and outstanding characteristics.

#### **Process to select the Te Tohu Reo Māori Award winner**

A selection panel (panel) of three te reo Māori teaching experts will select the Te Tohu Reo Māori awardee. The panel will not include those working at Ako Aotearoa. The panel will review the nominations and create a shortlist. Once additional information is obtained from the nominees and their organisation the panel will decide on the awardee.

The nomination of the Te Tohu Reo Māori awardee will be passed to the Te Whatu Kairangi panel to decide if it is worthy of the Prime Minister's Educator of the Year Award. One person from the Te Tohu Reo Māori panel will be on the Te Whatu Kairangi panel.

#### **Conditions of Entry**

1. Nominations written in te reo Māori or English are welcome.
2. The award is for Māori kaiako who are teaching te reo Māori.
3. The kaiako may teach Māori and/or non-Māori learners.
4. Nominators are to write no more than two pages in total.
5. Nominees must teach te reo Māori to adult learners as part of the New Zealand tertiary education sector. This must have been for a minimum of four years. This can be part-time or full-time; and it does not need to be consecutive or continuous years of teaching, or at one institution only.
6. Individuals cannot nominate themselves.
7. Nominations can only be made on the Word template available on the Ako Aotearoa website.
8. The nomination is by text only and should not include images or videos.
9. Nominations are for individuals only.
10. Information sought from shortlisted nominees can only be made on the Word template that will be provided.
11. Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.
12. A successful nominee can be nominated for another Te Whatu Kairangi award in subsequent years.

13. A nominee can be nominated by more than one nominator.
14. It is permissible to contact Ako Aotearoa for guidance and support of a nomination.
15. All nomination information is the property of Ako Aotearoa.
16. Ako Aotearoa may publish extracts from the nominations.
17. Nominators and nominees may be contacted by Ako Aotearoa for further information and for publicity purposes.
18. The award is granted on the understanding that award recipients will use the award monies on initiatives that will enhance the recipient's teaching career, promote good practice and/or benefit learners. The recipients will also be willing to share, present and promote good practice.
19. The closing date for the Te Tohu Reo Māori Award is 5:00pm on **Friday 28 June 2024**.
20. The Judges' decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.



Mari Ropata-Te Hei - 2023 Kaupapa Māori Group awardee