

Growing grassroots post-graduates: A whānau approach to Māori Tertiary Success

Tepora Pukepuke - University of Auckland - 27 June 2013

PhD (Education) pre-candidate, Te Puna Wananga, School of Maori Education

Tuia Nga Aho o te Matauranga: Weaving the threads of indigenous knowledge

@TeporaTEACH



- Picture of star system



Ko wai au? Who am I?

- Picture of my estuary



Picture of role models



A rocky start



Preparing the ground



Knowledge and expertise



The right conditions to grow



A literal example

A Maori garden fostered by
environmental studies tauira



Dominant paradigms

Individual, self-motivated, elite, smart



The Graduate 'Harvest'

Tuakana-Teina

- Te Rau Puawai 2005-2007
- Student Mentoring Project 2008
- Iwi Māori Research – What's out there 2008
- Course Planning and Advancement Project 2009
- A comparative analysis of tertiary institution projects and programmes impacting on Māori student retention – 2010
- TATT (Tuara Awhi Tuakana Teina) student retention 2012+

Master of Social Work

Tuhonohono:
Professional ethics
informing Māori
Tertiary Success

What are the ethical pressures for Māori tertiary student support practitioners?



Methodology

- Kaupapa Māori vs Māori Centred
- Random sample, then snowballing
- Semi-structured qualitative interviews
- 9 interviews with practitioners
- Thematic analysis – 3 key themes
 - Identity
 - Purpose
 - Engagement

Kaumatua and tikanga

- Conduits of cultural knowledge
- Institutional and external kaumatua
- Guide and support understandings
- Anchor
- Raises issues of dual responsibility

Tuhonohono

- Education is complex and inter-relational
- There is strength in collaboration
- Need for sincere & genuine relationships
- Maori staff bring a unique set of skills and expertise to further institutional goals
- Te ao Maori principles contribute to success

Principle-based practice

- Manaaki
- Whanaungatanga
- Tuakana-teina

- Tikanga then guides practice
- Kaumatua deepen understanding
- Personal values shape kawa

Planting the seed

- Pre-semester engagement
- Course advice related to moemoea
- Planning for study
- Acculturation to the institution



Collaborative & Convergence

- Collaborative relationships can be innovation and creative initiatives
- Convergence merges similar goals and resources to create a seamless operational unit
- PhD auto-ethnographic case studies

Write Night

Te Whanau o Matauranga

The future

- Qualifications improve job options
- Employment improves wealth
- Wealth improves health options
- Graduates are role models
- Wealth is not necessarily bad?

New Thesis Direction

- What is the role of Universities
- Professional identity of practitioners
- What are the broader definitions of student success
- Global Māori identity and success

Whanau seedlings