



14 April 2020

For immediate release

He Kupu Āki nā Te Rāngai Reo Māori

Te Mate Urutā: COVID 19

A Statement on behalf of the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa, Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa, Te Taihuhu o Ngā Wānanga

Tēnā koutou i roto i te kōrero rā, ko te tupuna o te ao, ko ia te rā e wharau nei e tauwhi nei i ngā āhuetanga katoa o tō tātou ao tae noa mai ki a tātou ki te hunga tangata. Āe rā, i whānau mai tātou me te tohu tonu o te mate e mau tonu ana ki runga i a tātou. Nō reira ko o tātou mate tuatini e tīraha ana, kua herea ki te here taura, ka whakanunumi ki tua o te pae o maumahara, ki a mate ki te pirau kia ngaro ki te pō. He aroaro kua anga ki te wā kāinga he murimuri aroha tā tātou ki a rātou. E te iwi kua riro, a te wā e tūtaki anō ai tātou.

E hoa mā, i tēnei wā, ko tātou tēnei e noho ana i raro i te korowai o rāhui. He mate urutā kua tau mai, he kore mōhio nō ētahi ka tau ki hea, ki a wai, mō te wiki, mō te marama rānei, ko mate tōna mutunga mai, he aha rānei?

E kaha nei mātou te rāngai reo Māori, arā ko te Kohanga Reo, ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, ngā Kura ā Iwi, ngā Wānanga Māori hoki, ki te whakatikatika i a mātou anō, arā mō te ao hou nei, kia taea ai e ngā tauira te ako i te reo o ngā tūpuna, otirā, i te mātauranga Māori i ōna whānuitanga, i ōna rētōtanga. Ko tō tātou ao whakaako nei, kua rerekē noa ake i tenei wā.

Ko te awhiawhi a tētahi i tētahi, ko te pā o te ihu ki te ihu, rae ki te rae, kua huri ki te ao maioha, ki te mihi ā tawhiti nei.

Ko te tohutohu o te Kāwanantanga e mea ana, “e noho ki te kāinga”, “e noho i tō mirumiru”. Me pērā ka tika kia kore ai te mate nei e rērere haere ki waenga i ngā hāpori. Mō te āpōpō te whakaaro, kua mō te ināiane. Ki te kore tātou e pērā, arā anō te ara roa kei mua i te aroaro.

Arā anō ngā uauatanga o te noho here i te kāinga, engari arā anō ngā painga. I tōna mutunga iho, me kaha whai tātou i tērā kōrero kei raro iho nei:

“Me noho ki te kāinga, me noho koe i tōu ake mirumiru, ā, mutu noa”

As we know the whole country is in lock down because of COVID19. It has created a lot of uncertainty with our whānau.

At a recent meeting of those involved in te reo Māori teaching, namely Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, Ngā Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa and Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga, we had an opportunity to talk about ensuring all of our taura and tamaiti are able to maintain their education pathway.

Our learning environment has changed. The ability to hug one another, to hongī, things we do naturally as part of everyday life, have been replaced with a wave and a greeting from afar.

As Māori Education leaders we ask that our people use this time to support our taura and tamaiti to learn about themselves and take the opportunity to reconnect with their loved ones – kuia and kaumātua are just a phone call away or via video messaging – and strengthen your whakapapa and whānau histories. Discussions with pakeke about their lives, their ideas on tikanga and te reo Māori would be precious stories to capture for whānau for the future.

These conversations will enrich taura and tamaiti knowledge of themselves and build self-efficacy and also support the online or hard copy information being distributed by the education agencies to support our mahi.

The Government has declared that we should all “stay home” and “stay in our bubbles”. We believe it is best thing to do to stop the spread of COVID19 amongst communities. This is about our future and not just today.

There is no doubt that there are challenges with being locked down at home but the recent health figures illustrate there are also positives with the number of people testing positive to COVID19 coming down. So please:

Stay at home, stay in your bubble until it is finished

Kua tīmata te kaupapa, me whakatutuki i te kaupapa

We started the task, let's finish it

Mā te wāhi ngaro tātou e manaaki

Nā mātou,



Angus Hartley

for Te Kohanga Reo National Trust



Cathy Dewes

for Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa



Arihia Stirling

for Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa



Te Ururoa Flavell

for Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga



Iona Holsted

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