



20th Paengawhāwhā (April) 2020

For immediate release

“Kotahi tonu te hā o te mokopuna me te Kaumātua”

(Our grandchildren and their elders share the same breathe– Tino Rangatiratanga Māori Education Authority 1990)

Tuia te rangi e tū iho nei

Tuia te papa e takoto nei

Tuia te ira tangata kia puta ki te whai ao ki te ao mārama, tihei mauriora!!

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

This morning at the meeting of Te Rāngai Reo Māori - Māori Medium Peak Bodies, namely Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and Te Taihuhu o Ngā Wānanga, we discussed the recent government announcement regarding COVID 19 Alert Level 3 and the impact on our organisations, tamariki (children), tauira (students), kaimahi (staff), whānau and communities. Te Rāngai Reo Māori continues to support Aotearoa's key strategy to defeat COVID 19 which is "Stay Home, Save Lives".

Te Rāngai Reo Māori agrees that the wellbeing of our people is the priority followed by the learning of our students. Therefore our expectation is that only the people who "need" to go to work or have a major personal wellbeing concern should send their children to kura.

Te Rāngai Reo Māori acknowledges that our organisations including kōhanga, kura, wharekura and wānanga all have their own unique contexts which includes their students, staff, whānau and wider community. Therefore Te Rāngai Reo Māori recognises that each of our kura, their whānau and community have their own "rangatiratanga" and mana motuhake. We support our kōhanga, kura, wharekura and wānanga to determine how they will operate in a COVID 19 Alert Level 3 environment that prioritises the wellbeing of their students, staff, whānau and community. Furthermore, we trust that our kura and communities will ensure that students can continue with learning that is meaningful, relevant and manageable.

Kua tīmata te kaupapa, me whakatutuki i te kaupapa

We started the task, let's finish it

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 Taiuhu o Ngā Wānanga



Iona Holsted

supported by the Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education.

For further information you can contact Te Ururoa Flavell, Te Taiurungi - Chief Executive Officer, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa as spokesperson for the group. Ph (07) 872 0345.