

WHO WE ARE

Nau mai ki Ara Taiohi, the peak body of youth development in Aotearoa. We are a guiding force for those who work with young people.



MIHIMIHI NĀ TĒTAHI KAUMĀTUA O ARA TAIOHI

James Makowharemahihī JP

Te mihi tuatahi ki a Ihōa o ngā mano,
Te Kaihanga o ngā mea katoa.

“Whakapaua tōu ngākau ki te whakawhirinaki ki a Ihōa, kaua hoki e okioki ki tōu mātauranga ake. I ōu ara katoa, whakaaro ki a ia, māna e whakatikatika ōu huarahi.” Whakataukī 3: 3-5

He poroporoaki ki ngā mate huhua o te wā, ki ngā aituā rangatahi, ki ngā taiohi kua whetūrangihia, haere ki te moenga roa, ki te kāinga tūturu o ngā tāngata, ki tua o te ārai, haere, haere, haere.

Anei ngā tangi a te manu, a te tūi, a te korerū, a te kārearea, a te pūkeko, a te pīpīwharaua.

Tuia te rangi e tū nei

Tuia te papa whenua e takoto nei

Tuia te here tangata

Ka rongo te pō, ka rongo te ao

Koia nei te putanga kōrero a ngā whāinga mō ngā tau e rima e tū mai nei. Mā tātou, mā te Ara Taiohi, mā ngā uri whakatupu.

Koia nei ngā kaupapa kōrero a ō tātou kaiārahi o te motu.

Ko te pou o te kīngitanga ko te Kīngi, ko Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero Te Tuawhitu – Kia tākiri tū kotahitanga, kia tākiri tū te mana Motuhake.

Ko te pou o te mōrehutanga ko te Tumuaki Rātana, ko Manuao Kohakoremutunga Tāmou – Toitū te Tiriti o Waitangi, Toitū Te Kotahitanga o Te Iwi Mōrehu ki Te Kīngitanga ki te Ture Wairua me Te Ture Tangata.

Ko rāua ko te hāpai o ngā kaupapa rangatahi hunga taiohi o te motu.

Ko te tumanako ki te oranga taiohi arā te oranga whānau, hapū, iwi me te hāpori. Mā ngā tamariki mokopuna, hunga taiohi rangatahi hei manaaki ngā pakeke kaumātua. Kia mau ki ngā tikanga, ki te reo me nga waihotanga a ngā mātua tūpuna, a koro mā, a kui mā.



INTRODUCTION

Jane Zintl

Our mission is intricately tied to the cultural values of Te Ao Māori, emphasising the significance of whakapapa and whanaungatanga in nurturing youth development. Ara Taiohi is proudly te Tiriti based.

As a central hub for resources, training, and a well-respected code of ethics, we champion a collective approach to youth development. Ara Taiohi is grounded in Mana Taiohi, the principles of youth development.

ARA TAIOHI STRATEGIC DIRECTION – 2030

Youth development is an essential ingredient in the ecosystem that supports the Rangatahi of Aotearoa to thrive. Ara Taiohi weaves within our sector as a partner, an advocate and a resource for those who dedicate their lives to journeying with Taiohi.

This strategy:

- Articulates our role and unwavering commitment to serve the youth sector, ensuring our wider network is dynamic, resourceful, and responsive
- In the context of our rapidly changing world, focuses on ensuring the principles of Mana Taiohi and the voice of the youth sector is influential in shaping policies and perceptions
- Reiterates and reinforces our dedication to the mana of Youth Work and youth development, ensuring they are appropriately recognised
- Intentionally seeks to strengthen and co-ordinate collaborative partnerships to enable systemic change informed by indigenous mātauranga
- Builds on our commitment to the professionalisation of Youth Work, creating space for the sector to redefine this and advocating for systemic investment into the profession.





VISION

An empowered ecosystem of youth development, where rangatahi thrive.

TŪRUAPŌ

He taiao whakapūmau whakawhanake taiohi, e pūāwai mai ai a rangatahi

MISSION

Ara Taiohi exists to champion youth development and young people, advocating for those who work with rangatahi, and nurturing their capacity and capability.

WHAKATAKANGA

Ka noho a Ara Taiohi hei kawau mārō i te mahi whakawhanake taiohi, i te hunga taiohi hoki, hei waha kōrero mō rātou e taunaki nei i te rangatahi ā ka poipoia hoki ō rātou raukaha me ō rātou āheinga.

OUR VALUES

Pursue Mana Taurite (Equity and Inclusivity)

We envision a world where every voice is heard, every culture is celebrated, and every young person has an equal chance to shine. Ara Taiohi is dedicated to fostering equity, ensuring that every young person receives the opportunity and support to thrive. We champion fairness and actively work to resolve systemic issues, creating an inclusive environment where rangatahi potential is recognised and nurtured.

Uphold Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship)

As guardians of youth development, we nurture the sector with best practices and innovative solutions. Guided by kaitiakitanga, we are stewards of the futures of both our youth and our sector, caring for their well-being and development with respect and responsibility. We pledge to protect, preserve, and enhance the resources and potential of our rangatahi, ensuring a legacy of empowerment and growth for generations to come.

Practise Manaakitanga (Care and Respect)

Our approach is grounded in aroha, care, and respect for all. Whether collaborating with youth workers or advocating for change, we lead with kindness and generosity. Manaakitanga is our commitment to nurturing and uplifting the mana of everyone we interact with. It is about fostering an environment of respect, generosity, and support, ensuring that every interaction acknowledges and empowers the inherent dignity and potential within each person.

Weave Kotahitanga (Unity)

Like the intertwined threads of woven harakeke, we bring people together, uniting our strengths to support the collective well-being of our rangatahi. Ara Taiohi champions unity and collective action, weaving together diverse voices and strengths to create a harmonious and supportive environment. Our commitment to collaboration and shared purpose ensures that together, we build a stronger, more inclusive community.

STRATEGY 2024-2030: OUR GOALS

CONNECT THE SECTOR

by weaving networks of support, understanding and collaboration

Over the next 6 years, we aim to:

- › Provide opportunities for intentional engagement across the motu
- › Codesign equitable solutions for diverse communities within the sector
- › Paint a clearer picture of the sector at large
- › Build deeper relationships and connections with existing and developing networks/communities
- › Foster a sense of belonging where the sector all see themselves as part of Ara Taiohi

In 6 years time we would expect to see:

- Engagement increases across all communications streams and invitations that reflects the diversity of our sector
- Reports that engagement opportunities are meaningful and have a positive affect within the sector
- Networks and initiatives for diverse communities are established/grown, supported and celebrated
- A relevant and dynamic understanding of the sector and how it is connected
- Networks that are well connected to one another and to the peak body
- People in the sector sharing about their connection with Ara Taiohi and expressing a sense of ownership in its work and vision

RAISE THE STANDARDS

and accountability by embracing learning, innovation and continuous improvement

Over the next 6 years, we aim to:

- › Continue to create and grow accessible and relevant trainings and resources in person and online
- › Curate evidence-based mātauranga that further informs policy and practice
- › Strengthen cohesive workforce development structures and improvement plans – quality
- › Affirm and advance the professional identity of Youth Work

In 6 years time we would expect to see:

- A well-resourced sector that knows where to find good information to support its kaimahi and organisational growth
- An increase in organisations that are informed by best practice
- Higher levels of engagement with mātauranga across the sector
- Central and Local Government policies better serve rangatahi and the sector
- Steady increase in the number of people taking up formal study within youth development/ Youth Work qualifications
- Workforce development pathways are secure, varied and high quality
- Quality-driven youth workers who are accountable for their practice
- Public pride as a profession that honours the mana of Youth Work
- Improved conditions for youth workers



CHAMPION YOUTH DEVELOP- MENT

by advocating for the rights, needs and potential of rangatahi and our sector

Over the next 6 years, we aim to:

- › Build influence in order to speak on systemic issues affecting rangatahi, the youth development workforce and the youth sector
- › Shift the dial on the perception of young people in Aotearoa
- › Clarify and promote the value of youth development, Youth Work, and Mana Taiohi
- › Build understanding and implementation of Mana Taiohi systemically
- › Invest in the relationships and structures that build capacity for whai wāhitanga across society

In 6 years time we would expect to see:

- Ara Taiohi recognised and sought as a valued authority on young people and the sector
- Members and others in the sector participate in advocacy opportunities
- The stories about, and perception of, young people in media and societally is increasingly more balanced, positive and strengths-based
- Youth development, Youth Work, and Mana Taiohi are fully understood by everyone connected to the youth sector or youth-focused initiatives
- Youth development, Youth Work, and Mana Taiohi are acknowledged as essential ingredients in the positive development of young people
- Mana Taiohi is integrated into practice and policy nationally and at all levels that impacts the rights and opportunities for Youth Workers and young people.
- Whai wāhitanga is evidenced within the work of Ara Taiohi and is effectively promoted to the sector
- Decision-makers incorporate and implement whai wāhitanga appropriately



PROMOTE SUSTAIN- ABILITY

by nurturing environments for the sector to thrive

Over the next 6 years, we aim to:

- › Tell the story of the sector's whakapapa and pūrakau to strengthen our turangawaewae
- › Embed a collective commitment to Te Tiriti for youth development, under the guidance of/ informed by Ngā Kaihoe
- › Continue to grow internal infrastructure for longevity
- › Advocate for the state of Youth Work, its impact and the need for appropriate investment
- › Promote care for te taiao within our communities

In 6 years time we would expect to see:

- A sector that knows its whakapapa and stands firm in its historical identity and stories
- Te Tiriti widely understood, acknowledged and upheld in all places where youth development is practised
- Ngā Kaihoe becomes known as a leader within youth development, and an advocate for youth development within te ao Māori
- Ara Taiohi has improved systems and processes to support its work for the sector
- Effective planning and delivery of actions
- Secured long term sustainable funding and membership growth
- the state of Youth Work is understood by government, funders, and the sector
- the value proposition of Youth Work is recognised
- greater investment that allows best practice Youth Work to be delivered
- The youth development sector consistently shows care for te taiao and understands the implications of our relationship with whenua for young people