



WHATUA TŪ AKA
TLRI



TEACHING & LEARNING
RESEARCH INITIATIVE
TLRI
Nāu i Whatu te Kākahu, He Tāniko Taku

Puka Whakaatu Hiahia | Expression of Interest

Whatua Tū Aka

Ngā mōhiotanga me ngā aratohu |
Information and guidance

2025

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3 March 2025

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your interest in the Teaching and Learning Research Initiative: Nāu i Whatu te Kākahu, he Tāniko Tāku (TLRI). Expression of Interest (EOI) applications are due by **5pm Wednesday 30 April 2025**.

The TLRI was established by Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Government in 2003 and has funded 192 projects since then. The annual funding pool is \$1,555,556 (excluding GST).

The TLRI seeks to support research addressing themes of strategic importance to education in New Zealand that will lead to improved equity and outcomes for learners. Partnerships between researchers and practitioners are central to the TLRI.

TLRI Te Tiriti Purpose Statement

In 2024, a strategic priority of the TLRI Advisory Board was to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The following purpose statement expresses how this commitment is implemented in practice:

The TLRI upholds He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni (He Whakaputanga) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as living documents that establish a partnership between the Crown and iwi-hapū-Māori.

As an expression of that commitment, the TLRI enables and supports transformative research that gives effect to kāwanatanga, rangatiratanga, ōritetanga, and mahitahitanga as expressed in the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The TLRI upholds the principle of kōwhiringa, through amplifying diverse educational practices and policies that have a positive impact on iwi-hapū-Māori and Tangata Tiriti, and bring about significant improvements in outcomes for all ākonga.

Kāwanatanga—the principle of governance is about honourable governance for mutual benefit.

Rangatiratanga—the principle of self-determination is about Māori self-determination.

Ōritetanga (mana taurite, rite tahitanga)—the principle of equity is about equitable outcomes for iwi-hapū-Māori.

Mahitahitanga—the principle of partnership is about the balancing of concepts of kāwanatanga and tino rangatiratanga.

Kōwhiringa—the principle of options is about the availability and variability of kaupapa Māori solutions as well as mainstream options in such a way that hapū-iwi-Māori are not disadvantaged by their choice.

Priorities for 2025

This year, the TLRI Whatua Tū Aka pathway is prioritising research that:

- contributes to the Government's education priorities
- focuses on topics of critical importance to Māori education within the early childhood, primary, secondary, and/or tertiary education sectors
- focuses on success for Māori learners as Māori.

The Government's education priorities are:

1. Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning.
2. Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics.
3. Implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progression and achievement.
4. Developing the workforce of the future, including leadership development pathways.
5. Targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs.
6. Using high-performing data and evidence to inform decision-making.

The Government has also set targets for attendance, and achievement for Year 8 students in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Government's Māori Education Action plan is available [here](#).

Pathways to funding

Since 2020, the TLRI has offered two distinct pathways for proposals that support success for Māori learners:

1. **Whatua Tū Aka:** A kaupapa Māori pathway for proposals that align with kaupapa Māori principles and meet its specific criteria.
2. **Open Pathway:** Open to proposals from all contexts and settings that meet its criteria. This pathway also includes the option for applicants to have their Pacific research proposals assessed against Pacific research criteria.

To provide clearer, more tailored guidance, there are separate documents for each pathway:

- **This document** outlines the criteria and application process for Whatua Tū Aka.
- For the criteria and application process specific to the Open Pathway, including Pacific research, refer to the information and guidance document [here](#).

Submitting an EOI

EOI applications must be submitted using the appropriate application form by **5pm Wednesday 30 April 2025**.

- The Whatua Tū Aka Form can be downloaded [here](#)
- The Open Pathway Form can be downloaded [here](#)
- The Open Pathway Pacific Research Form can be downloaded [here](#)

These forms clearly outline the information required for your application.

Learn more

To learn more about the TLRI and explore the research projects it has funded that are published and in progress visit ttri.org.nz.

For questions about the TLRI application process, please email: ttri@nzcer.org.nz

Nā māua noa, nā

Jackson Rowe-Williams and Davina Hunt

TLRI Project Co-Leaders

1. Ngā aratohu mō whatua Tū Aka | TLRI Whatua Tū Aka guidance

Mō tēnei tuhinga | About this document

This document provides guidance for applicants submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Whatua Tū Aka Pathway. It includes key information on:

- the purpose and objectives of the TLRI
- funding pathways and eligibility criteria
- key priorities for 2025
- the application and selection process.

Applicants submitting a proposal through the Open Pathway, including Pacific research, should refer to the Open Pathway guidance document [here](#).

Te take o te kaupapa | Purpose of the initiative

The TLRI seeks to support research addressing themes of strategic importance to education in Aotearoa New Zealand that will lead to an improvement in outcomes for learners. Partnerships between researchers and practitioners are essential to the TLRI.

The purpose of the TLRI is to:

- support research which will lead to significant improvement in outcomes for learners
- build a cumulative body of knowledge linking teaching and learning
- enhance the links between educational research and teaching practices, and researchers and teachers, across early childhood, school, and tertiary sectors
- grow research capability and capacity in the areas of teaching and learning.

Ngā whakaarotau mō 2025 | Priorities for 2025

This year, the TLRI Whatua Tū Aka pathway is prioritising research that:

- contributes to the Government's education priorities
- focuses on topics of critical importance to Māori education within the early childhood, primary, secondary, and/or tertiary education sectors
- focuses on success for Māori learners as Māori.

The Government's education priorities are:

1. Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning.
2. Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics.
3. Implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progression and achievement.

4. Developing the workforce of the future, including leadership development pathways.
5. Targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs.
6. Using high-performing data and evidence to inform decision-making.

The Government has also set targets for attendance, and achievement for Year 8 students in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Government's Māori Education Action plan is available [here](#).

2. Ngā mōhiotanga kaupapa TLRI | TLRI project information

Ngā mahi kōtui i waenga i te hunga rangahau me te hunga tautōhito | Partnerships between researchers and practitioners

To be eligible for the fund, proposals need to come from partnerships involving education practitioners and researchers. Practitioners may include but are not limited to: teachers and kaiako in kindergartens, early childhood centres, kōhanga reo, and Pacific ECE settings; teachers and kaiako in kura, primary, intermediate, and secondary schools; and lecturers and tutors working in universities, wānanga, polytechnics, and private training establishments. Partnerships may also include students and ākonga; families and whānau; and hapū, iwi, and communities.

Researcher–practitioner partnerships should be integral to the design of the project. There needs to be a focus on the individuals in the team using their collective expertise, and on all team members having the opportunity to learn from each other, rather than on explicitly developing the research skills of the practitioner members of the project team. In this partnership, practitioners might take the role of advisors, data gatherers, informants, etc. and not necessarily be integral to all aspects of the thinking inside the partnership.

The TLRI is open to experienced researchers working in organisations (e.g., universities or other tertiary institutions) or independently. Staff members of the Ministry of Education or other government departments are not eligible to apply.

Applicants from an institution that does not have access to an experienced researcher may contact the TLRI team (tlri@nzcer.org.nz) who may be able to link you with an appropriate person. Please note that postgraduate students can be on project teams, but the TLRI cannot directly fund PhD or Master's study.

Ngā huarahi pūtea me ngā taumata pūtea | Funding pathways and levels of funding

Since 2020, the TLRI has offered two distinct pathways for funding:

1. **Whatua Tū Aka:** Established in 2020, this kaupapa Māori pathway supports projects aligned with kaupapa Māori principles and criteria.
2. **Open Pathway:** Open to proposals from all contexts and settings that meet its criteria. In 2022, the TLRI introduced a set of Pacific-specific criteria for Pacific research proposals within this pathway. Researchers can choose to have their Pacific research proposals assessed against these criteria.

This document focuses on Whatua Tū Aka. For guidance specific to the Open Pathway, including Pacific research, please see the information and guidance document [here](#).

The TLRI encourages applications for projects at different levels of funding. The amount of funding requested needs to be appropriate for the scale and scope of the proposed research (e.g., a small pilot study, or a large-scale project involving multiple sites).

Projects will be funded for 1, 2, or 3 years. The amount requested may be different for each year.¹ If your project is to continue beyond 2026, you must clearly state the amount of funding you seek for the subsequent years. Note that future funding is subject to ongoing government funding and satisfactory performance in the first year. All figures are GST exclusive.

Projects funded through the TLRI can be part of a wider programme of work, but the TLRI funding must add clear value. If your proposal is part of a larger programme of research, please state this and indicate any other sources of funding (e.g., Aotearoa New Zealand Tāwhia te Mana Research Fellowships, institutional funding). Clearly specify what aspects of the project the TLRI funding will support that are not covered by other sources.

Projects that are “business as usual” (e.g., evaluating course changes) do not fit the intent of the TLRI. Similarly, while “tool development” may be one of the outputs from a TLRI project, producing a tool without a core and significant research component is out of scope for TLRI funding. Evaluating programmes or initiatives is also out of scope, unless there is a core and significant research component that meets the TLRI criteria.

Te whiringa wāhanga-rua me te hātepe urupare | Two-stage selection and feedback process

Applicants to Whatua Tū Aka can choose between the following application processes:

1. **Two-stage process:** Submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to receive feedback, followed by submission of a Full Proposal.
2. **One-stage process:** Submission of a Full Proposal directly without submitting an EOI.

All Whatua Tū Aka applications (both EOIs and Full Proposals) will be assessed by an external research panel led by NZCER’s kaupapa Māori research unit, [Te Wāhanga](#). The same external panel of kaupapa Māori researchers will assess applications at both stages, and feedback will be provided to all applicants at each stage.

Submitting an EOI is optional; however, applicants who submit an EOI will receive feedback from the external research panel to assist them in strengthening their research proposal before submitting a Full Proposal.

An open call will be made for Full Proposals in May following the closing date for Expressions of Interest.

All applicants must submit a Full Proposal to be considered for funding. These Full Proposals will be due by **5pm Thursday 21 August 2025**.

At the Full Proposal stage, applicants must demonstrate that a partnership agreement is in place between researchers and practitioners.

Expressions of Interest are now being sought for Whatua Tū Aka and must be submitted by **5pm Wednesday 30 April 2025**. Applicants will receive an email acknowledgment upon receipt of their proposal. If no acknowledgement is received by 2 May 2025, please email ttri@nzcer.org.nz or phone (04) 802 1456.

¹ The maximum funding per year is \$150,000 with a maximum of \$450,000 for a 3-year project.

There is no limit on the number of EOIs that can be submitted by individuals or organisations. However, at any one time, a person can only be named as the principal investigator for one funded TLRI project, unless otherwise negotiated with the TLRI team.

An individual may submit EOIs for both the Whatua Tū Aka and the Open Pathway. However, these must be separate proposals.

Ngā whakaritenga kirimana | Contractual arrangements

A contract is signed between Rangahau Mātauranga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) acting as co-ordinators of the TLRI, and the principal investigator's institution, incorporated society, or other legal entity (the Contractor).

The following conditions will apply to those who are successful at the Full Proposal stage:

- Funding beyond 1 year is conditional upon continued government funding of the TLRI and satisfactory performance in the first year of the project.
- The TLRI must be acknowledged as the funding source in any publications, presentations, or similar materials that result from the project.

Funding period

Funding for the successful projects in 2025 will commence on 1 January 2026, subject to contracts being signed. It is expected that research projects will start from the date of commencement stated in the successful applicants' contracts.

Use of funds

The TLRI seeks to obtain the best value for its funds. This means that purchases of large-scale capital items (such as computers) will not be funded, nor will overseas travel. Depending on their purpose within the project, it may be possible for smaller items to be funded.

Reporting

All projects will be required to provide quarterly or 6-monthly progress reports. Specific requirements will be stipulated in the contract.

3. Te whakahaere me te whakariterite i te TLRI | Management and co-ordination of the TLRI

Te Poari Tohutohu | Advisory Board

A TLRI Advisory Board is convened by the Ministry of Education. The Advisory Board provides strategic leadership to the TLRI and reviews the recommendations for project funding decisions. Members of the current Advisory Board are listed [here](#).

Te tūranga whakariterite o NZCER | NZCER's co-ordination role

NZCER co-ordinates and administers the fund on contract to the Ministry of Education. NZCER's role is to:

- provide leadership and operational implementation
- build awareness of the TLRI and its research programmes and results
- implement quality-assurance policies and processes for the TLRI
- create opportunities for building research capability in teaching and learning for researchers and practitioners.

Te āhei o NZCER ki te tono pūtea māna anō | Eligibility of NZCER for funding

NZCER staff members involved with any aspect of the selection process are not eligible to apply for funding from the TLRI or to be members of project teams applying for funding in that particular year. However, it has been agreed with the TLRI Advisory Board that NZCER staff not involved in selection will be eligible to put forward proposals for funding and/or to be members of collaborative teams applying for funding. They must adhere to the conflict of interest guidelines for programme co-ordination.

Te hātepe whiriwhiri, urupare hoki | Selection and feedback process

All Whatua Tū Aka applications (both EOIs and Full Proposals) will be assessed by an external research panel led by NZCER's kaupapa Māori research unit, [Te Wāhanga](#).

The same external panel of kaupapa Māori researchers will assess applications at both stages, and feedback will be provided to all applicants at each stage.

Only individuals not involved in submitting a bid themselves may undertake this role. These decisions are made independently of the NZCER-based TLRI team.

The TLRI's selection and feedback process is subject to independent audit.

Ngā whakaritenga pīra, whakatakoto take hoki | Appeals and complaints procedure

It is important that the administration and selection processes for the TLRI are sound, robust, fair, and transparent. NZCER has established procedures to minimise the likelihood of conflicts of interest or breaches of privacy during the handling and selection of the TLRI project proposals.

The TLRI has an appeals and complaints procedure. The appeals procedure is for appeals against decisions taken in relation to shortlisting and funding. The complaints procedure is invoked in situations where an organisation or individual has reason to believe that they have not been appropriately or fairly treated, or that NZCER has not acted properly in its role as coordinator.

The full appeals and complaints policy and procedure can be requested by emailing tlri@nzcer.org.nz, or is available on the website [here](#).

4. Te Tuku mai i tētahi Puka Whakaatu Hiahia: Whatua Tū Aka

Ko tēnei wāhanga he aratohu mā ngā kaitono e tuku mai ana i tētahi Puka Whakaatu Hiahia mā Whatua Tū Aka, arā, te huarahi kaupapa Māori. E wātea ana tēnei wāhanga ki te reo Ingarihi me te reo Māori. Mehemea e tono ana koe i te Huarahi Tuwhera, tae atu ki ngā rangahau mō Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, tirohia te tuhinga mō ngā mōhiotanga me ngā aratohu i **konei**.

Te whakakāi i te Puka Whakaatu Hiahia

Me whakamahi ngā kaitono katoa i te Puka Tono Whatua Tū Aka ina tuku mai rātou i tētahi Puka Whakaatu Hiahia. E wātea ana te puka i **konei**. Ka tautohu te Puka Tono i te herenga mō te maha o ngā whārangi mō ia wāhanga.

E toru ngā wāhanga hei whakakāi:

1. **He whārangi uhi o mua:** me homai ngā taipitopito taketake pēnei i te taitara kaupapa, te arotahitanga rangahau, ngā taipitopito tira, me ngā mōhiotanga mō ngā pūtea e tonoa ana.
2. **Te wāhanga tuatahi:** e aro ana ki te mātāpono matua o te kaupapa Māori, me te rangatiratanga.
3. **Te wāhanga tuarua:** e aro ana ki te mātāpono matua o te kaupapa Māori, me te whanaungatanga, ki te ako, me te mana.

He aratohu mō te whakakāi i ia wāhanga

Kei tēnei wāhanga he aratohu mō ia wāhanga o ngā mahi whakakāi i te Puka Tono, kia mārama te katoa, kia hāngai pū hoki ki ngā mātāpono o TLRI.

Pānuitia ngā tohutohu e whai ake nei, e hāngai ana ki ngā mōhiotanga kei tōna tauria.

I roto i tō tono, tēnā whakamāramatia ka pēhea te hāngai o tō kaupapa ki ngā whakaarotau o TLRI Whatua Tū Aka mō te tau kei roto ko te rangahau e:

- āwhina ai i ngā whakaarotau mātauranga o te Kāwanatanga
- arotahi ai ki ngā kaupapa whai hiranga rautaki i roto i ngā rāngai akoranga kōhungahunga, kura tuatahi, kura tuarua, mātauranga matua hoki/rānei
- arotahi ai ki te angitu mō ngā ākongā Māori hei Māori.

He whārangi uhi o mua

Kei tēnei wāhanga ngā taipitopito taketake mō te kaupapa e hiahiatia ana mō tō tono. Ka āta whiria ngā mōhiotanga tuku pūtea i te taha o te roanga atu o te tono, hei aromatawai mehemea he tika ngā rawa e tonoa mai ana mō ngā rangahau e marohitia ana, me ōna putanga.

He tirohanga whānui ki ngā mātāpono o Whatua Tū Aka

E rima ngā mātāpono e whakaruruhau ana i Whatua Tū Aka: Ko te Kaupapa Māori, Rangatiratanga, Whanaungatanga, Ako me te Mana. Kia kitea nuitia ēnei ariā tūhonohono me te taupuhipuhi puta noa i tō tono.

Kaupapa Māori: He mātāpono tāhuhu

Ka noho mai ko te Kaupapa Māori hei mātāpono tāhuhu mō Whatua Tū Aka. Ka taunakitia a Kaupapa Māori i te mana o te reo, ngā tikanga me te mātauranga Māori. Me aronui tō kaupapa rangahau ki tētahi aronga Kaupapa Māori mai i te tirohanga Māori hoki e whakaputa ai he hua mō ngā wheako a te Māori i roto i te mātauranga. Ko ngā tono rangahau mō te Māori, mā te Māori, nā te Māori. E akiaki ana a TLRI kia whakaputa koutou i ngā tūmomo āhuatanga e whakaatu ana i te kaupapa Māori pērā i ngā āhuatanga ā-whānau, ā-kura, ā-hapori, ā-hapū, ā-iwi.

Te wāhanga tuatahi:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- He aha te kaupapa, he aha hoki i nui ai te kaupapa?
- I ahu mai i hea, e ahu ana ki hea?
- Ko wai te hunga ka whai hua i tēnei rangahau, ā, me pēhea e whai hua ai rātou?
- He aha ngā panonitanga ka puta?
- He aha ngā pātai o te rangahau?
- He aha te hoahoatanga o te rangahau?
 - He aha ngā kōrero ka kohia, me pēhea koe e kohikohi ai i aua kōrero?
 - Me pēhea koe e tiaki, e tātari hoki ai i ngā kōrero?

Mātāpono Tahī: Rangatiratanga

Ka whakawhenutia te Rangatiratanga ki roto i tō tono mā tō āta whiriwhiri i ngā miro o te rangahau e meatia ana mō wai, mā wai hoki e kawē. Ka kitea nuitia te Rangatiratanga i roto i tōna hanga kaupapa mahi tahī e whakataui i ngā tikanga me ngā tukanga i waenganui i ngā kairangahau me tōna hapori. Me whakaatu mai tō tono me pēhea tō rangahau e hāpai ai i te rangatiratanga e hāngai ana ki ngā tikanga, kawa me te horopaki o te hau kāinga.

Te wāhanga tuatahi:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- Nā wai te rangahau i kōkiri, ā, mō wai hoki te rangahau?
- Me pēhea tō kaupapa rangahau e hāpai ai i te rangatiratanga?
- Me pēhea tō rangahau e hāngai ai ki ngā tikanga, ki te horopaki me te kawa o te hau kāinga?

Mātāpono Rua: Whanaungatanga

Ko te whanaungatanga e pā ana ki ngā hononga whai mana, taupuhipuhi anō hoki. He tohu anō tēnei i te haepapa me te ūkaha o te kairangahau ki a rātou anō i roto i te tīma me tōna ake hapori. Me whakaatu mai i roto i tō tono ōu whanaungatanga ki waenganui i te hapori e rangahau ana e koe, ā, ko te wairua o te whanaungatanga i te wā o te rangahau, ā, haere ake nei.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- He aha hoki te wairua o tō whanaungatanga ki te hapori, ā, he pēhea taua wairua i roto i te hanganga o tō kaupapa rangahau?
- He aha hoki te whanaungatanga i waenganui i ngā tūranga o tō tīma rangahau?

Mātāpono Toru: Ako

Ko te Ako te tino iho o te TLRI. Ko ngā kaupapa katoa he mea ako me te whakaako. Me mātua whakatakoto a Ako i roto i ngā tikanga rangahau, hei tauira, mā te āta whiriwhiri i te whanaungatanga ki waenganui i ngā tuākana-teina e tīni ai i ētahi wāhanga o tō kaupapa rangahau. I roto i te horopaki o TLRI, Ko te Ako he kaupapa whakawhanake i ngā kairangahau hou me ētahi atu i roto i te hapori. Me whakaatu mai koe i roto i tō tono i ngā huarahi ako e angitu ai ngā tāngata katoa o te rangahau ki te ako me te whakaako. Hei te wāhanga Puka Tono (kua ināiane), ka uia ngā kaitono katoa ki te pātai me pēhea koutou e tuku ai i ngā huarahi ako i roto i te hōrapa haere o ngā whakakitenga o tō rangahau.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- Me pēhea tō whakatinana i te ako mā te katoa o tō kaupapa rangahau?
- Me pēhea tō whakawhanake i ngā kaimahi i roto i tō kaupapa rangahau?

Mātāpono Whā: Mana

Ko tēnei mātāpono e whakanui ana i te mana o te tamariki, whānau, kura, hapori, hapū, me ngā iwi. Me whakaatu mai e koe i roto i tō tono rangahau me pēhea tō kaupapa e hāpai ai i te mana o te katoa. Me āta whakamārama mai koe i roto i tō tono he pēhea tō kaupapa rangahau e whakapiki ake ai i te ora o ngā tāngata i roto i tō kaupapa rangahau.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- Me pēhea tēnei rangahau e hāpa ai i te mana o te tangata?
- Me pēhea tēnei rangahau e hāpai ai i te mana o te reo, tikanga me te mātauranga Māori?
- Me pēhea tō āta wherawhera i te mana i waenganui i ngā tāngata o tō kaupapa rangahau?

Hei te wāhanga Puka Tono (kaua ināiane), ka uia ngā kaitono katoa ki te pātai me pēhea koutou e whakaatu ai i tā koutou aronui ki ngā tukanga i roto i te rangahau. Kāore ēnei pārongo e pīrangitia ana i te tono EOI.

Ngā paearu mō te whiriwhiri

Ko tā ngā paearu he aromatawai mehemea kua tutuki i te tono:

- ki te aro ki tētahi wāhanga nui e pā ana ki te mātauranga Māori.
- ki te tino whakamārama i te pūtake o te rangahau.
- ki te tūtohu pātai rangahau kia puta ai he mātauranga hou e hāngai tika ana ki te hōkai me te hoahoa e whakaarotia ana mō te kaupapa rangahau.
- ki te whakamārama mai i ngā hua o te kaupapa hei whāngai i te kaupapa o te ako e whakaritorito ai te tipu o ngā tamariki Māori, ākonga Māori, kaiako, kura, hapori, ngā hapū me te iwi Māori.
- ki te whakamārama mai me pēhea tō kaupapa e hāpai ai i te rangatiratanga.
- ki te whakaatu mai he aukaha nō te kaupapa rangahau Māori ki te whakautu i ngā pātai rangahau e puta ai ētahi whakakitenga nui whakaharaha.
- ki te whakaatu i ngā hononga pūmau o te whakawhanaungatanga.
- ki te whakaatu mai he tīma e aratakina ana e te kaiwherawhera matua kei a ia ngā pūkenga e tika ana mō te whakahaere i ngā momo kaupapa rangahau pēnei i tēnei, ā, e whai mana ana e hāngai ana ki te kaupapa.
- ki te whakamārama me pēhea te kaupapa nei e whakapakari ai i ngā tāngata katoa.
- ki te whakamārama mai me pēhea te kaupapa e hāpai ai i te mana tangata, te mana o te reo me ngā tikanga me te mātauranga Māori hoki.

Ngā tono i tuhia ki te reo Māori

E pōwhiri ana a TLRI i ngā tono i roto i te reo Ingarihi me te reo Māori. Mehemea e whakaaro ana koe ki te tuku i tō tono ki te reo Māori, tēnā whakapā mai ki a mātou ki tlri@nzcer.org.nz i mua i te rā kati hei āwhina i ā mātou hātepe.

Ngā rā matua mō Whatua Tū Aka

Te rā kati i ngā Puka Whakaatu Hiahia	5pm, Rāapa te 30 o Paenga-whāwhā, 2025
Ka tuwhera te karanga mō ngā Puka Tono o Whatua Tū Aka	Rāmere te 3 o Haratua, 2025
Te hora urupare ki ngā kaitono Puku Whakaatu Hiahia	Rāpare te 19 o Pipiri, 2025
Te rā kati i ngā Puka Tono	5pm, Rāpare te 21 o Hereturikōkā, 2025
Te whakatau i ngā tono pūtea	Rāmere te 24 o Whiringa-ā-nuku, 2025
Te wā e tīmata ai te pūtea TLRI mō ngā kaiwhiwhi pūtea mō 2025	Kohitātea 2026, hei tā te kirimana rānei

Te tāpae mai i tō tono

- Ko te rā kati mō te tuku mai i ngā Puka Whakaatu Hiahia ko te 5pm, Wenerei 30 Paenga-whāwhā 2025.
- Tēnā tukua mai tō tono tāhiko ki tlri@nzcer.org.nz (hei aha te tuku kape pepa mai).
- Ka whiwhi mihi poto ngā kaitono mā te īmēra ina tae mai ā rātou tono. Ki te kore tētahi whakaaetanga e tae mai i mua i te 2 o Haratua 2025, tēnā tukua mai he īmēra ki tlri@nzcer.org.nz, waea mai rānei ki (04) 802 1456.

5. Te Tuku mai i tētahi Puka Whakaatu Hiahia: Whatua Tū Aka | Submitting an Expression of Interest: Whatua Tū Aka

This section provides guidance for applicants submitting an EOI through Whatua Tū Aka, the kaupapa Māori pathway. This section is available in English and te reo Māori. If you are applying for the Open Pathway, including Pacific research, refer to the information and guidance document [here](#).

Te whakakī i te Puka Whakaatu Hiahia | Completing the Expression of Interest Form

Applicants must use the Whatua Tū Aka Application Form when submitting an EOI. The form is available [here](#). The Application Form specifies the page limit for each section.

The Application Form contains the following sections to complete:

1. **Cover page:** Provide key details such as the project title, research focus, team details, and requested funding information.
2. **Te wāhanga tuatahi:** Focusing on the overarching principle of kaupapa Māori, and on rangatiratanga.
3. **Te wāhanga tuarua:** Focusing on the overarching principle of kaupapa Māori, and on whanaungatanga, ako, and mana.

Guidance for completing each section

The following section provides step-by-step guidance for completing the Application Form, ensuring clarity and alignment with the Whatua Tū Aka principles.

Please read the following guidance in conjunction with the information in the Application Form.

In your application, please explain how your project aligns with the TLRI Whatua Tū Aka priorities for the year, which include research that:

- *contributes to the Government's education priorities*
- *focuses on topics of strategic importance within the early childhood, primary, secondary, and/or tertiary education sectors*
- *focuses on success for Māori learners as Māori.*

Cover page

This section captures basic project details required for submission. The funding information will be considered alongside the rest of the application to help assess whether the proposed research and associated outcomes justify the requested resources.

Overview of principles for Whatua Tū Aka

There are five principles underpinning Whatua Tū Aka: Kaupapa Māori, Rangatiratanga, Whanaungatanga, Ako, and Mana. These connected and interdependent concepts should be evident throughout your proposal.

Kaupapa Māori: Overarching principle

Kaupapa Māori is the overarching principle for Whatua Tū Aka. Kaupapa Māori assumes the validity and legitimacy of te reo, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori. Your proposal must have a strongly articulated kaupapa Māori focus and approach that will have a transformative impact on the educational experiences of Māori. Proposals must be for research that is by Māori, for Māori, with Māori. The TLRI encourages nuanced and diverse expressions of kaupapa Māori e.g., ā-whānau, ā-kura, ā-hapori, ā-hapū, ā-iwi.

Te wāhanga tuatahi:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- What is the kaupapa, and why is it important?
- Where did it come from, what does it build on?
- Who will benefit from the research, and how will they benefit?
- What difference will it make?
- What are the research questions?
- What is the research design?
 - What data will you collect and how?
 - How will you manage and analyse the data?

Principle One: Rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga will be embedded in your proposal through your consideration of who the research is for and who initiated it. Rangatiratanga will also be evident in the project's co-design and in the shared decision-making processes that exist between researchers and the community of interest. Your proposal should describe how your research will uphold rangatiratanga and be responsive to local tikanga, context, and kawa.

Te wāhanga tuatahi:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- Who initiated the research and who is it for?
- How does your research project uphold rangatiratanga?
- How is your research responsive to local tikanga, context, and kawa?

Principle Two: Whanaungatanga

Whanaungatanga is about meaningful and reciprocal relationships. It acknowledges the responsibility and commitment researchers have to each other in the research team and to the community of interest. Your proposal should describe the nature of your existing relationship with the community of interest, as well as the nature of that relationship during the research, and into the future.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- What is the nature of your relationship with the community of interest and how is this reflected in the design of the project?
- What are the relationships and roles within the project team?

Principle Three: Ako

Ako is the essence of the TLRI. All projects are about teaching and learning. Ako will also be embedded in how the research is undertaken; for example, through consideration of tuakana-teina relationships that will change across the team at different stages of the project. In a TLRI context, ako is also about building the capability of emerging or new researchers and others in the community of interest. Your proposal should consider the ako opportunities for everyone involved in the research to learn and lead. At the Full Proposal stage (not required now), applicants will also be asked to consider ako opportunities with regard to dissemination of research findings.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- How will ako be demonstrated throughout this project?
- How is capability building considered in this project?

Principle Four: Mana

This principle acknowledges the mana of tamariki, whānau, kura, hāpori, hapū, and iwi. Your proposal should demonstrate how your research will uphold the mana of all involved. Your proposal should also articulate how your project will seek to leave people in a better place as a result of their participation in the research.

Te wāhanga tuarua:

Kōrero mai mō tō kaupapa:

- How will this research uphold mana tangata?
- How will this research uphold the mana of te reo, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori?
- How is power shared and balanced in your research?

At the Full Proposal stage (not required now), applicants will also be asked to demonstrate they have considered research ethics within their project. This information is not required in the EOI proposal.

Ngā paearu mō te whiriwhiri | Criteria for selection

The criteria assess the extent to which the proposal:

- addresses an area of critical importance to Māori education
- provides a clear rationale for the project
- poses a research question(s) that will build new knowledge and is (are) appropriate for the proposed scope and design of the project
- describes a project that has the potential to have a positive impact on learning and lead to outcomes of significance for tamariki Māori, ākonga Māori, whānau Māori, kaiako, kura, hāpori, hapū, iwi
- explains how the project will uphold rangatiratanga
- has a strong kaupapa Māori research design that will address the research question(s) and enable substantive and robust findings
- demonstrates the existence of meaningful and reciprocal relationships
- has a project team led by a principal investigator(s) with relevant experience in leading similar research projects, and a team that brings mana relevant to the project
- explains how the project will build the capability of all involved
- explains how the project will uphold mana tangata, and the mana of te reo, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori.

Ngā tono i tuhia ki te reo Māori | Applications in te reo Māori

The TLRI invites applications in English or te reo Māori. If you plan to apply in te reo Māori, please contact us at tlri@nzcer.org.nz before the application closing date to assist with our processes.

Ngā rā matua mō Whatua Tū Aka | Key dates for Whatua Tū Aka

Closing date for Expressions of Interest	5pm, Wednesday 30 April 2025
Call for Whatua Tū Aka Full Proposals opens	Friday 3 May 2025
Provision of feedback to Expression of Interest applicants	Thursday 19 June 2025
Closing date for Full Proposals	5pm, Thursday 21 August 2025
Notification of funding decision	Friday 24 October 2025
TLRI funding commences for 2024 funding recipients	January 2026, or as in contract

Te tāpae mai i tō tono | Submitting your proposal

- The deadline for submitting EOIs is **5pm Wednesday 30 April 2025**.
- Please submit your application electronically to tiri@nzcer.org.nz (no hard copies are required).
- Applicants will receive an email acknowledgment upon receipt of their proposal. If no acknowledgement is received by 2 May 2025, please email tiri@nzcer.org.nz or phone (04) 802 1456.