

# Rangatahi



**Te Kaunihera Māori o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Māori Council

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**Authors: Matthew Tukaki, Executive Director of the New Zealand Maori Council and Tane Cook, National Executive Member and Chair of the National Taskforce for Rangatahi**

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**Paper: The development of a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council**



**B A C K G R O U N D  
P A P E R**

# New Zealand Maori Council Background Paper: The development of a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council

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## The Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council background

In 1968 the Sir Turi Carrol and other members of the New Zealand Maori Council developed and executed a concept around giving young people of the time a say in the organisations affairs. It was also an opportunity to develop our young people into positions of responsibility by giving them a say in the running of the organisation but also guidance and mentoring around governance and management, the development of an idea for change, when it comes to social policy, and how to go about advocating to bring about that change. For several years afterwards the Youth New Zealand Maori Council worked as a sub-division but was later integrated into the Maori Committee structures across the sixteen Districts of the Council. On of the key challenges of the time was the attraction of additional support and funding that we see the initiative resourced to be able to realize that full potential. Like many organisations such as the Maori Education Foundation the day to day work program continued but in other forms.

Today the New Zealand Maori Council faces the same challenges and opportunities when it comes to providing our young people with a voice not just in the affairs of Council but also the burgeoning world of Te Ao Maori – the Maori world in this new and dynamic century. Like Sir Turi Carrol and others the Council also needs to look at supporting our young people by giving them a say, opportunities to participate in discussions, develop ideas, nurture them to fruition and, at the same time, provide valuable experience around governance and management. In November of 2018, at the National Hui of the New Zealand Maori Council, rangatahi were invited not just to participate and observe, but also to speak to the very challenges and opportunities they themselves saw when it came to our people. The messages were clear; an increased voice, inclusion, to be taken seriously, to get “out of the way” and “we want a seat at the table.”

The response of the National Hui wasn't just to give them a greater degree of inclusion it was also to begin the discussion about what their own voice might look like and how that could shape the overall direction of Councils narrative when it came to social, economic and environmental affairs. Our young people also came from a diverse range of backgrounds from university qualified or in study, to just out of school and heading into their first jobs through to those with a lived experience of the state care and correctios systems, mental health and more.

## **The mandate**

The New Zealand Maori Council resolved to follow the path of our Tipuna and seek to establish a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council. In doing so learning the lessons of our forebears and the challenges they encountered from funding and resourcing to how it might operate within the current Council and how the representative voice might be shaped. The first step was to support the nomination of a Rangatahi representative to the National Executive of the New Zealand Maori Council and create, for the first time, a national taskforce for rangatahi as a first step towards a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council. The mandate was set alongside an exploratory piece of work that would set the scene for this application for funding.

## **Hui and engagement to get us to this point**

From February to July the Council socialized an online conversation across social media platforms and using our maorieverywhere.com site. The objective was to validate the mandate provided to National Executive Member, Tane Cook (responsible for the Rangatahi portfolio), and to give consideration to the establishment of a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council. A series of questions were put:

1. Would you like to see the development of such an initiative
2. Would you join such an initiative
3. What do you see the primary function of such an initiative to be? (a list was provided made up of a voice for young people, input into social, economic and environmental policy, learn new skills such as governance and management etc.)

A sample of group of 1,000 were identified through our social media subscription list and maorieverywhere.com database. In total we received 693 responses from an age group ranging between 16 – 25. The largest response rate came from Waikato- Tainui District of the Council followed by Tamaki, Taitokerau, Tauranga Moana, Te Arawa and Tairawhiti. The lowest response rate came from Wellington and Wairarapa. On the first question “Would you like to see the development of such an initiative?” the response rate for yes was a high 92% followed by 71% who would join. Topping the list of answers in question three (a series of prioritize in order questions) our rangatahi wanted a voice followed by the desire to be more engaged and involved in shaping policy. This tied in with a high response rate wanting to learn about governance.

The initial feedback was then delivered back to the National Chairs Hui of the New Zealand Maori Council held in April of 2019 and again the mandate to continue to shape the narrative and proceed was provide with all sixteen Chairs of the Maori Council Districts in agreement – to listen to our young people and bring about a Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council.

## **The shaping of the construct of what this might look like**

A piece of work then began to look at how such a Council could be shaped. Firstly, the Principles were established:

1. The Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council would act within the current framework of the New Zealand Maori Council
2. That the structure would first operate as a national initiative as a similar structure to the current Districts of the New Zealand Maori Council were put in place
3. That this would focus inclusion of our young people across each of the sixteen Districts and into the Maori Committee Structure
4. That seats would be made available on each of the National Taskforces of the New Zealand Maori Council ranging from justice, law and corrections, education and training, employment and access to industry, environment and climate change.
5. That the National Taskforce already established for Rangatahi would be the starting point and would be charged with shaping the new Rangatahi New Zealand Maori Council, developing hui around engagement and a workplan
6. That support would be provided through funding applications and secretariat / administrative support
7. That the New Zealand Maori Council would move to include our Rangatahi as observers to the National Executive hui, attend National Hui and be provided with opportunities to be engaged in conversations at the table as policy as shaped more generally
8. That within the first twelve months of operation the Rangatahi voice would be specifically included into national social, economic and environmental policies of Council – and this would then be moved to an advocacy position / or those policy statements that Rangatahi develop and are specific to that population group could be adopted by Council for advocacy
9. Importantly each of the young people involved would have opportunities to learn about governance and the structures of Maori representative organisations in a one-day workshop and, following that, they also have the opportunity to be mentored by a District Chair or a national executive member.

No changes or amendments to the Maori Community Development Act are required to bring this initiative into being and these principles have been developed within a smaller group of Rangatahi who felt that at every stage while inclusion was important there was also an opportunity to learn – and be mentored by some of the leading figures in the world of Maori Affairs.

## **This background paper falls within the bounds of the Maori**

### **Community Development Act 1962:**

Section 18, Māori Community Development Act 1962 describes the general function of the New Zealand Māori Council as:

18 General functions of the New Zealand Maori Council

- (1) The general functions of the New Zealand Maori Council, in respect of all Maoris, shall be—

- (a) to consider and discuss such matters as appear relevant to the social and economic advancement of the Maori race:
- (b) to consider and, as far as possible, give effect to any measures that will conserve and promote harmonious and friendly relations between members of the Maori race and other members of the community:
- (c) to promote, encourage, and assist Maoris—
  - (i) to conserve, improve, advance and maintain their physical, economic, industrial, educational, social, moral, and spiritual well-being;
  - (ii) to assume and maintain self-reliance, thrift, pride of race, and such conduct as will be conducive to their general health and economic well-being;
  - (iii) to accept, enjoy, and maintain the full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of New Zealand citizenship;
  - (iv) to apply and maintain the maximum possible efficiency and responsibility in their local self-government and undertakings; and
  - (v) to preserve, revive and maintain the teaching of Maori arts, crafts, language, genealogy, and history in order to perpetuate Maori culture:
- (d) to collaborate with and assist State departments and other organisations and agencies in:
  - (i) the placement of Maoris in industry and other forms of employment;
  - (ii) the education, vocational guidance, and training of Maoris;
  - (iii) the provision of housing and the improvement of the living conditions of Maoris;
  - (iv) the promotion of health and sanitation amongst the Maori people;
  - (v) the fostering of respect for the law and law-observance amongst the Maori people;
  - (vi) the prevention of excessive drinking and other undesirable forms of conduct amongst the Maori people; and
  - (vii) the assistance of Maoris in the solution of difficulties or personal problems.

(2) The New Zealand Maori Council shall advise and consult with District Maori Councils, Maori Executive Committees, and Maori Committees on such matters as may be referred to it by any of those bodies or as may seem necessary or desirable for the social and economic advancement of the Maori race.

(3) In the exercise of its functions the Council may make such representations to the Minister or other person or authority as seem to it advantageous to the Maori race.

We believe this background paper fits our objectives around this initiative.