

## Notes of the accelerating Māori in STEAM hui 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Rutherford House, Wellington



Purpose: To allow Minister Woods to hear the voices of Māori working at the science-mātauranga interface and to provide a clear steer about how to accelerate Māori in STEAM with key actions that the Minister can take away.

Attendees: Michael Ahie (host), Jessica Hutchings, Tahu Kukutai, Reece Moors, Holden Hohaia, Naomi Manu, Melanie Mark-Shadbolt, Nikora Ngaropo, Kirikowhai Mikaere, Te Taiawatea Moko-Mead, Marie Cocker, Hon Minister Dr Megan Woods

Guests: Gary Evans, Prue Williams, Susie Meade, Carolyn Tremain, Sarah Townsend

Apologies: Juliet Gerrard

Noted the previous hui<sup>1</sup> that have involved around 170 Māori Leaders, rangatahi and policy makers to agree priority action areas for enabling Māori to participate equitably in and lead a STEAM-focused future. The ideas put forward at the hui have been tested and refined over the past two months and reflect a consensus view.

As well as the outcomes from the hui which are captured in the next page some other points were noted in the roundtable with Minister Woods.

- Noted the overlaps with the future-of-work portfolio and the need to invest in Māori R&D intensive businesses so rangatahi have high skills employment to move into. There is a need for data about which businesses to invest in and collective working across iwi. There is a lack of data about the number of Māori researchers in business. The MBIE future-of-work

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<sup>1</sup> The first was a two-day Vision Mātauranga (VM) Leadership hui held on 30-31 October convened by Rauika Māngai at Te Wai o Horotiu Marae. The second, 'Transforming the future of Māori in STEAM' was hosted by Tahu Kukutai and Jessica Hutchings on 19th November at Waipapa Marae.

programme has data on participation of Māori and Pasifika by different industries and could help with foresighting as part of developing a Māori STEAM strategy.

- The commitment made by Government that New Zealand history will be taught in all schools and kura by 2022 represents an opportunity to ensure that tamariki grow up with mātauranga and can develop capabilities as dual knowledge navigators with a strong cultural identity. It was noted that funding would be required to make this happen.
- There are opportunities to enhance co-governance and co-management by increasing Māori appointments on boards. Noted the ineffectiveness of current BAU approach of having one Māori 'voice' on a board and the need to re-balance power, consistent with a Te Tiriti partnership approach. Concentration of Te Ao Māori expertise on boards would enable dynamic thinking to be scaled more effectively than being spread thin across the system (where the outcome is 'divide and exhaust'). Te Whare Hukahuka offers governance and leadership training.
- The outcomes of this third and final hui represents a clear path forward. The RSI Strategy consultation is an opportunity to bring these conversations forward, but the opportunity is being missed in the current approach of seeking Māori consultation on a strategy that is already largely worked up, and where mātauranga is on the margins of the RSI system.
- A ropū that draws from those involved in the hui could be a good forum for continuing to progress these actions. There is an opportunity to bring the ropū together with relevant Ministers including Davis, Mahuta, Jackson, Hipkins and Henare perhaps through a dinner in the speakers lounge.

## STOP

## START

## KEEP

**Competition for crumbs**

- Inappropriate funding mechanisms and 'tick the box' tokenism
- Competing over 'crumbs'
- Rigid focus on STEM/STEAM – let's front foot mātauranga
- Funding & systems that put mātauranga at the periphery and devalues other knowledge systems
- Competition in the system inc amongst ourselves
- Using money ring-fenced for VM for professional development of non-Māori
- Gatekeeping – restricting access to participating in the science system as a result of Māori not being in positions of power and influence

**Reinventing the wheel**

- and pulling funding from programmes already showing success

**Unequal power balance**

- Divide and exhaust – Māori stretched too thin across multiple engagements
- De-valuing Māori views in RS&I
- RSI Strategy as one dimensional

**Funding**

- Having a shared vision
- Putting Mātauranga at the core
- Having a strategy to elevate mātauranga by Māori, for Māori, for the whole of Aotearoa
- Assessment of the value of VM as a policy
- Specific new funding for mātauranga eg Māori CRI / CORE/ NSC / platform
- Growing philanthropic
- Equitably funding mātauranga and recognising other knowledge system
- Protecting mātauranga

**Power sharing & working in partnership**

- Getting movement on the Te Tiriti partnership and power sharing
- Re-designing the system through co-design and Māori involvement in setting priorities
- Changing the narrative
- Changing narrative into positive language and sharing success
- Promoting the value of mātauranga to Aotearoa
- Collective evidence of the benefits of mātauranga / opportunity lost of not funding
- Re-contextualising information/education
- Raising visibility of the impact on the community

**Enabling tamariki and Rangatahi participation & leadership**

- Early exposure to tech / RSI and enhancing capability the in areas they are passionate about eg greater awareness of tech pathways
- Rangatahi-led mātauranga
- Fun and interactive experiences for our young
- Educating and supporting our teachers

**What works**

- Long-term funding for Māori-led and mātauranga initiatives with proven success
- Telling Māori stories of success across diverse audiences
- Increase funding for VMCF
- Māori curriculum content but grow it

**Conversation and leadership**

- Brave conversations, pushing boundaries and keeping safe
- Bringing Māori together
- Māori partnership
- Māori / wahine Māori Leadership
- Supporting allies