

## **Te Ara Haepapa (The Journey) – Maori road safety education programme**

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### **Abstract**

Te Ara Haepapa (The Journey) was developed in 2017 to address the high proportion of Maori (indigenous people) involved in deaths and serious injury road crashes in Tamaki Makaurau, Aotearoa (Auckland, New Zealand). It is the only comprehensive Maori road safety programme in Aotearoa delivered via Marae (community meeting places), Kura (schools), Kohanga (pre-school) and community. The programme is delivered within a holistic Maori cultural context by fluent Te Reo (Maori language) speaking staff and covers a wide range of high-risk road safety prevention themes, including child restraint and seat belt use, sober driving, speed and Driver Licensing. This presentation highlights the cultural approach used to successfully engage the uptake of formal Driver Licensing amongst hard-to-reach at-risk young Maori drivers in Tamaki Makaurau in the past two years 2017 and 2018.

### **Background**

The Kaihautū (Driver) programme delivers driver licensing workshops which include educational road safety behaviours and the New Zealand road code to Rangatahi (young adult) Maori aged between 16-24 years and their whanau (extended family). The aim is to have more Kaihautū (drivers) on the road who understand and apply the road rules, keeping themselves and their whanau (extended family) safe from harm. The programme also aims to heighten awareness of other road safety issues (sober driving, speed, & restraints) and to prepare Rangatahi (young adult) Māori and their whanau to sit their Raihana Ākonga (Learner Driver) and Raihana Whītiki (Restricted Driver) licences with confidence and accountability.

Maori are over-represented in road deaths and serious injuries (DSI) in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) and were involved in 15% of all DSI in 2017 while making up only 10% of the resident population. Maori DSI has increased by 108% from 60 in 2014 to 125 in 2017. Rangatahi (young adult) Māori aged 16-24 years made up 26% of total Māori DSI in 2017, and many of these were vehicle Drivers.

Historically, there has been a larger number of Rangatahi Maori involved in DSI who do not have a formal Drivers License, and 55% of Rangatahi Maori aged 16 to 24 years in the NZ Justice System, have ended up there as a result of driving related offences (NZ Police data – Source?).

### **Methodology**

The aim of the Kaihautū (Driver) community-based programme was to increase the number of Rangatahi Maori attaining a formal Drivers License in Tamaki Makaurau, along with introducing attitude changes and increased knowledge of road safety, while successfully progressing through the Graduated Driver License system. The measures of success included:

- Increased Rangatahi Maori Driver License participation
- Increased Rangatahi Maori Driver License pass-rates

- Reduced road deaths and serious injuries among Rangatahi Maori drivers in Tamaki Makaurau

The Kaihoutu (Driver) programme development was unique, in that it was delivered within a holistic Māori cultural setting where Rangatahi (young adult) Māori had the ability to learn in a familiar environment according to Maori tikanga (protocols), foster whakawhanaungatanga (relationships and kinship ties), and receive additional whanau (extended family) support. These cultural elements enhanced Rangatahi (young adult) Māori participation, chances for achieving Driver Licensing understanding and pass-rates, and also increased the prestige of holding and valuing a Drivers License as a taonga (valuable gift) within the wider whanau. Success in attaining a Drivers License also increased the mana (self-worth) of Rangatahi Maori, as it opened up additional employment and educational opportunities for some.

The programme also created a longer-term sustainable community and whanau (extended family) commitment through Kaiwhakahaere Raihana konga (Train the Trainer) development. This training provided for Māori Kaimahi (?), kaiako (?), kaiāwhina (?) and whanau to train as Driver Licensing Trainers and continue the programme within their rohe (tribal boundaries). The Kaihautū programme also works alongside Government partners such as NZ Police, who are culturally supportive. The assistance from NZ Police opens a new and valuable perspective for Rangatahi Maori by providing positive interactions with authority.

## Results

The initial 2017 Kaihoutu Programme included 107 Raihana Ākonga (Learner Driver) participants, and 92% of those who sat the Raihana Ākonga (Learner Driver) test passed. This is a pass-rate higher than the Tamaki Makaurau average for all young drivers aged 16 to 24 years in 2017 (74%) (see Table 1).

The 2018 Kaihoutu Programme increased the number of Raihana Ākonga (Learner Driver) participants to 218, and 95% of those who sat the Raihana Ākonga (Learner Driver) test passed. This is a pass-rate higher than the Tamaki Makaurau average for all young drivers aged 16 to 24 years in 2018 (74%). Also in 2018, a Raihana Whītiki (Restricted Driver) programme was introduced for a small number of participants, of whom the majority passed the Raihana Whītiki (Restricted Driver) test (see Table 1).

While it is difficult to directly link Driver Licensing uptake from the Kaihoutu Programme among Rangatahi Maori and road death and serious injury (DSI) outcomes for the same population in Tamaki Makaurau, it has been encouraging to note a 46% reduction in Rangatahi Maori Driver-related DSI from 15 in 2017 to 8 in 2018 (see Table 2)

## Conclusion

The Kaihoutu Programme has successfully engaged a greater number of hard-to-reach at-risk Rangatahi Maori in Tamaki Makaurau's Graduated Driver Licensing System. Participants have also achieved higher than average Driver Licensing pass-rates. The use of a holistic Maori cultural setting and approach has been key to this success, including the Kaiwhakahaere Raihana konga (Train the Trainer) development among community and whanau. There are also early encouraging signs of reduced road deaths and serious injuries (DSI) among Rangatahi Maori Licensed Drivers.

**Table 1. Kaihau Driver License courses participation and pass rates 2017 and 2018**

Kaihau Driver Licensing course	Number participating in course	Number sitting test	Number passing test	Kaihau % pass rate	Comparison % pass rate for all of Tamaki Makaurau
2017 Raihana Ākonga Learners Licence	107	95	88	92.6%	74%
2018 Raihana Ākonga Learners Licence	218	110	104	95%	74%
2018 Raihana Whītiki/Tūturu Restricted Licence	16	8	7	87.5%	90%

**Table 2. Rangatahi Maori Road Death & Serious Injury data for 2014 to 2018**

Rangatahi Maori (Young Driver) 16 to 24 years Road Deaths & Serious Injuries (DSI) in Tamaki Makaurau					
Year & License Status	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Full License	2	3	2	2	1
Learner License	3	6	5	3	2
Restricted License	1			4	
Never Licensed	1	1	2	6	3
Unknown Status		2	3		2
Total	7	12	12	15	8

Source: NZ Transport Agency Crash Analysis System (CAS). Note: Maori Road Death & Serious Injuries are under-reported in CAS due to ethnicity not always being identified by NZ Police.