

Tapuwaekura

Tapuwaekura is a Kaupapa Māori approach underpinned by the Atua Matua Framework (Māori Health and Wellbeing Framework). Tapuwaekura supports kura and kaiako to implement a Te Ao Māori approach through whakapapa and mātauranga Māori to connect tamariki to te taiao (the environment) for better health and wellbeing outcomes.

Led by Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa, in partnership with Ngā Pākura, and supported by the Ministries of Health and Education, Tapuwaekura runs parallel to the Healthy Active Learning initiative.

What has happened so far?

Using Atua Matua as an approach for promoting tamariki wellbeing in kura, Ngā Pākura has:

- Established and trained a cohort of eight national Atua Matua trainers
- Facilitated 11 wānanga, hosting 89 kaiako from 14 kura
- Tested the Atua Matua approach in seven different taiao
- Developed an Atua Matua toolkit for kura and kaiako.



Healthy Active Learning

Healthy Active Learning is a joint government initiative between Sport NZ and the Ministries of Health and Education to improve the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi through healthy eating and drinking and quality physical activity.

“ Atua Matua gives life to the whole concept that our knowledge is valued and it has a value. ”



Tapuwaekura evaluation

To understand the full potential of Tapuwaekura, Te Paetawhiti, a collection of independent Māori evaluators and researchers, is leading the evaluation of Tapuwaekura. The evaluation adopts a case study inquiry approach underpinned by Māori-centred evaluation practices.

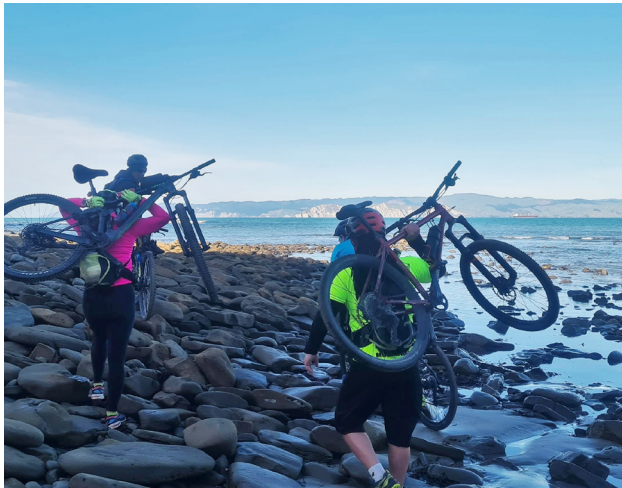
Emerging findings:

1 Kaiako and kura support and value the Atua Matua approach because it:

- A. Validates indigenous places, spaces and knowledge.
- B. Strengthens Te Reo and tikanga.
- C. Re-indigenises thinking.

“ Just amazing, in all aspects of the kaupapa. Wānanga, hauora, whakapapa taiao, using the taiao as the classroom, the people/kaiako of the kaupapa, hauora, everything that the kaupapa is about is just amazing. ”

“ Atua Matua should become who we are as kaiako Māori. ”

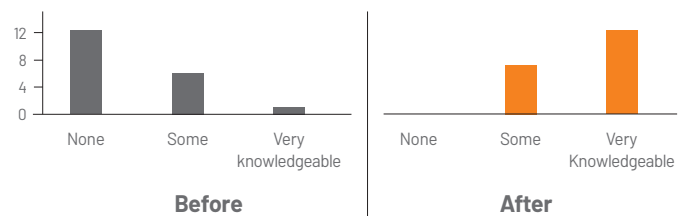


2 Wānanga are an important part of the learning experience because:

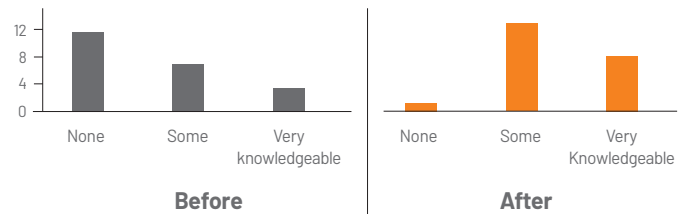
- A. It can improve confidence and understanding of Atua Matua.

“ Atua Matua has been the best most interactive PLD wānanga I have ever attended. It is a beautiful blueprint for how the learning can take place. ”

Understanding of Atua Matua before and after the wānanga



Confidence to apply Atua Matua before and after the wānanga



- B. It can support kaiako to start to make changes in their kura.

90% 90% of kaiako implemented at least one thing in their kura that they learnt during the wānanga.

3 Embedding Atua Matua requires more than wānanga alone.

30% Just over 30% of kaiako felt ready or fully ready to implement Atua Matua after their first wānanga.

40% 40% of kaiako felt challenges that were difficult to overcome were: funding, time to plan, teaching resources.

“ For me Atua Matua is depth and layers of knowledge and it requires constant and continuous wānanga. It’s a lifestyle change. ”

“ Robust reflection tools and a willingness to change, attitudinal monitoring both as staff and as pononga are super important to evoke positive and long-lasting change. ” Kaiako

Implementation considerations:

1

Support from kura leadership, understanding of Atua Matua, and kura ability to draw on local knowledge are all important for implementing Atua Matua.

To what extent are the following factors **very important** to implementing an Atua Matua approach in kura?

94%

Tumuaki are involved and engaged

88%

Time to plan

87%

Funding

75%

All kaiako are involved and engaged

75%

Atua Matua is reflected in marau-a-kura (local curriculum)

75%

Appropriate teaching resources

63%

Iwi and hapū are involved and engaged

“ I think if you're immersed in it every day then it becomes the norm, unfortunately the systems in place at kura do not allow or restrict you from following through with initial first thoughts. ” kaiako

2

Kura and kaiako are at different stages of engagement and understanding of Atua Matua.

Kākano

Ka whakatōngia te kaupapa

The Atua Matua seed is planted

Kura in the Kākano phase are more likely to engage in training intermittently and require more support to grow the kaupapa.

Te Pihinga

Ka timata te kaupapa ki te tupu

The Atua Matua approach is sprouting

Kura in the Pihinga phase are committed to Atua Matua and require in-depth support to embed the kaupapa.

Te Puāwai

Kua tino whakatutukingia te kaupapa

The Atua Matua approach is thriving

Kura in the Puāwai phase have a sophisticated understanding of Atua Matua relevant to their context that is benefitting the wellbeing of their taura, kaiako and whānau.

What next?

In June 2021, The Tapuwaekura Pilot Project was extended through to June 2023 to focus on:

- supporting kura and kaiako cohorts to develop regional and local approaches for their own mātauranga
- creating connections and working in partnership with other regional and local Māori organisations
- supporting kura to embed Atua Matua into their policies and marau-a-kura
- developing resources to support kura and kaiako to apply Atua Matua in educational settings
- delivering taiao-focused wānanga for kura in different locations across Aotearoa
- engaging and supporting 16 new kura to engage with Atua Matua.