



Inquiry into how rangatahi see the role of iwi in supporting the development of the next generation as more iwi move towards a post-settlement environment

Recommendation

The report of the Māori Affairs Committee makes the following recommendations to the Government

- That iwi and Government work together to find roles for Māori who worked on the treaty settlement process.
- We encourage iwi that were early settlers with the Crown to work with iwi who have only recently reached an agreement with the Crown, or are yet to, and help them develop best practice for managing their assets so that rangatahi can develop fully.
- That the Government develop a taskforce to work with iwi to develop environmentally sustainable practices.
- Individual iwi have an important role to play in ensuring the preservation of their dialect.
- That the Government should work with iwi to help promote the development of Te Reo Māori technology.
- Iwi should ensure that rangatahi feel culturally connected to their marae.
- We encourage iwi to try and find different solutions so that rangatahi are achieving to their full potential in education, and continue to expand successful programmes.
- We encourage iwi to work with Government in enhancing mentoring programmes, such as STARS, so that rangatahi can work with youth, with an emphasis on those aged 13 to 15, to help them grow and develop, both educationally and culturally.

- We recommend the Government encourage continued involvement by iwi in Kura kaupapa, and would like to see an increase in students involved in Kura kaupapa.
-

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise our consideration of the question of how rangatahi see the role of iwi in supporting the development of the next generation as more iwi move towards a post-settlement environment. When we refer to rangatahi, we are referring to Māori youth aged 13 to 24.

Historical context

After the settlement of New Zealand by British colonialists, Māori society started to organise into iwi, rather than hapū. This change was driven by a need for pan-tribal unity in opposing government measures that were not in their interests. The Crown was receptive to this reorganisation as it allowed for it to deal with a small number of regional iwi groups rather than numerous hapū. After 1945, tribal trust boards were formed on an iwi basis in order to negotiate, settle, and manage the assets resulting from settlements under the Treaty of Waitangi. This process continues today.

In the past 30 years, tribal organisations have taken a central role in a wide range of dealings with the Crown. Iwi authorities work on behalf of their members to manage assets, assert the rights of their members, and promote the interests and aspirations of their collective membership.

The first iwi to reach a settlement with the Crown was Waikato–Tainui in 1995. Since then a total of 62 deeds of settlement have been signed with approximately 60 settlements yet to be negotiated. In 1998, Ngāi Tahu received \$170 million in cash and land after reaching its settlement with the Crown. By 2008 Ngāi Tahu had total assets of \$644 million, and an operating surplus of \$31 million. It is important to note that Treaty settlements compensate for historic wrongs; they do not remove the Government's future obligations to iwi or Māori.

Māori youth

The Māori population is younger than the national average, with a median age of 23.1 years in 2011 compared to 36.8 years in the total population. The number of rangatahi has increased from 93,822 in 1986 to an estimated 126,410 in 2011, and is projected to grow to 142,600 by 2026. The proportion of rangatahi between the ages of 15 to 19 years at school increased from 37 percent in 2000 to 47 percent in 2010, although it is still lower than the participation rates for non-Māori youth. Māori students in bilingual and immersion schools are twice as likely to attain University Entrance compared to all Māori school leavers, and just as likely as non-Māori students in English medium schools. The total number of rangatahi enrolled in tertiary education increased by 19 percent between 2002 and 2010.

The total number of rangatahi employed in the labour market has remained steady from 2006 to 2011. However, the proportion of employed rangatahi has fallen from 50.6 percent to 40.2 percent. Compared with all youth, rangatahi are disproportionately represented in low-skilled occupations such as labourers and machine operators. While there has been a clear shift of young Māori women towards more highly skilled occupations, the occupational distribution of male rangatahi has had limited change.

Support systems for Māori youth

The Government and iwi have been working together to provide better outcomes for Māori to support future generations. One example of this is the Service Management Plan between the Government and Ngāi Tūhoe, under which various government agencies have agreed to work with Ngāi Tūhoe to improve the delivery of social services in areas such as housing, health, education, and social support and development of iwi members. Another example of collaboration of government agencies and iwi is the social development and well-being accord between Te Hiku o Te Ika Iwi and the Crown. This accord seeks improvements in educational achievements, workforce participation, and reducing youth suicide.

Ngāi Tahu has established a number of direct programmes to support their members, including a future-focused savings scheme involving an estimated 16,700 members. Among other initiatives, there is the Ngāi Tahu Fund; designed to provide resources to Ngāi Tahu whānui, rūnanga, hapū, and whānau groups to strengthen cultural excellence; and Ngāi Tahu Education, which is focused on supporting rūnanga by providing access to tuition, scholarships, and grants. Other iwi such as Waikatio-Tainui and Ngāi Kahungunu have also been actively engaging with rangatahi.

Submissions

Te Puni Kōkiri

We heard from Te Puni Kōkiri that the legacy of the settlement process will be the freeing up of Māori intellectual property, with highly educated and motivated Māori who previously worked on the settlement claims for their tribe now able to devote themselves to a new area. Te Puni Kōkiri told us iwi are in control of their own destinies, and must be responsible for ensuring that they achieve their potential; the Government can work with iwi, but not for iwi. We note this does come together in the provision of social services, where the needs of iwi and government align, and that there are service management plans with Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Hika, and soon Ngāti Porou.

Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori

We heard from Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori that, although the settlement from the Crown is important, not all things can be sustained by money; iwi must also ensure that they retain their identity. We heard that it is important for rangatahi to ensure that the language lives on, particularly the dialects of the different iwi. We also heard that the historical reliance on geographic identity is changing, and that this presents an opportunity and a challenge; developments in technology mean that their language can be used throughout the world. We heard that there are not enough teachers to make Te Reo compulsory, so resources should instead be focused on those who hunger for the language, and that iwi should teach the language to their children.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

We heard from Ngāi Tahu that, in the post-settlement environment, they feel like the architects of their future, and that each generation has a responsibility to help the future generation, with the motto “for us, and our children after us”. We heard that the post-settlement environment has led to a complete change in the relationship with the Crown; there is pain before the settlement, but afterwards, iwi can work in common cause with the Crown.

Cultural connections

The post-settlement environment means that Māori are in a better place to take control of their own destiny; iwi are able to ensure that their rangatahi develop as Māori, in their use of Te Reo, their education, and in their cultural identity. As noted in the submission by Te Taura Whiri I Te Reo Māori, different tribes have different dialects; we feel that individual iwi have an important role to play in ensuring the preservation of their dialect. Rangatahi are “digital natives”, and they are well placed to develop technology which can help with the teaching and preservation of Te Reo. We believe that the Government should work with iwi to help promote the development of such technology.

We are aware that when developing the next generation of rangatahi, we must take care to ensure that they see themselves developing as New Zealanders, but with pride in their own culture. We are aware that many rangatahi do not feel as though they belong to their tribe, and also struggle to find acceptance from the wider community. This can sometimes have tragic consequences for Māori youth. We are aware that a large factor in Maori youth suicide is a lack of cultural connection to their iwi. We must ensure that rangatahi feel as comfortable on the marae as they do in the wider community. Both iwi and the Government must work together to ensure this. Iwi have a role in ensuring that rangatahi feel comfortable on the marae by developing initiatives such as those developed by Ngāi Tahu, where senior youth leaders run tutorials and visit important areas in the iwis history so that rangatahi feel welcomed amongst their own people.

Iwi must also take care to ensure that they remain engaged with the wider community and not just their own people. Ngai Tahu looks after those that are living within its boundaries, of any ethnicity.

Education

For the next generation of rangatahi to achieve their potential they must achieve educational success. We are aware that Māori are currently leaving school at a greater rate than non-Māori and are less likely to gain University Entrance. We are aware that Māori students in bilingual and immersion schools are twice as likely to attain University Entrance compared to all Māori school-leavers, and just as likely as non-Māori students in English medium schools. We recommend the Government encourage continued involvement by iwi in Kura, and would like to see an increase in students involved in Kura Kaupapa. University Entrance is not the only measurement of educational success. We are aware that Ngāi Tahu has developed an initiative with the Crown, the local polytechnic, and a local building company to increase the number of skilled apprentices. While education is the role of the Government, we are aware of initiatives that some iwi run to assist with the development of their rangatahi. We encourage iwi to try and find different solutions so that rangatahi are achieving their potential, and where they do, the Government must work with iwi to remove unnecessary barriers.

We encourage iwi to continue valuing educational success. This can include developing mentors—rangatahi that have already achieved a high-level of educational success in their chosen field who can work with others to assist them. We encourage iwi to work with Government in enhancing mentoring programmes, such as STARS, so that rangatahi can work with youth, with an emphasis on those aged 13 to 15, to help them develop educationally and culturally. We encourage iwi to develop a range of scholarships for their people in different fields, and we also encourage iwi to ensure that these scholarships include a bonding period where the recipient would give back to their iwi.

Sustainable relationships

When considering how iwi can support the development of the next generation it is important to note that future generations will not be able to develop successfully without sustainable resources. Iwi must ensure that they implement sustainable practice in environmental, economic, and political areas.

Political

We heard from Te Puni Kōkiri that the post-settlement environment will include a large number of iwi members who are skilled in treaty negotiations. Once all the settlements have been processed these individuals will be able to apply their skills to new ventures. We believe that the Government should work with iwi to ensure that these individuals' skills are put to their best use. We are aware that a number of iwi members who worked on the treaty settlement process could naturally move into leadership roles within their iwi, but we do not want to see these skills deployed narrowly; iwi and Government must work together so that these individuals find the best outlet for their skills. Iwi leadership roles can be used to develop the next generation of leaders; iwi can be used as incubators so that there will always be new leaders from each iwi.

Economic

In order to ensure sustained development for rangatahi, each iwi must be able to fund development opportunities in areas such as education, business, and social security. Many iwi are already doing this, for example Ngāi Tahu has carefully managed the \$170 million settlement it reached with the Crown, and 10 years after settlement it had total assets of \$644 million and an operating surplus of \$31 million. This is the result of prudent investments and a conscious decision to ensure clarity on roles and functions by having separate governance and investment arms; one to ensure the assets are grown, and another arm to distribute the earnings. Iwi authorities try to strike a balance between long-term economic security by growing their capital base through investment and supporting the immediate needs of their iwi members. We encourage iwi that settled early with the Crown to work with iwi that have only recently reached an agreement with the Crown, or are yet to, and help them develop best practice so that they are able to ensure a sustainable asset base, which can then fund future development.

Environmental

Just as rangatahi must have economic assets in order to achieve their potential, the environment must be preserved in a sustainable way so that there are resources available for them to use. Iwi already do undertake to ensure natural resources are preserved; this is part of their cultural heritage and we recognise the value they place in kaitiaki. We recommend that the Government develop a taskforce to work with iwi to develop environmentally sustainable practices, and this taskforce then works with other iwi to ensure this is a national priority.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The committee met on 16 and 17 July 2013 to consider the inquiry. The committee received and heard three submissions. Evidence was heard from Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Taura Whiri I Te Reo Māori, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Committee members

Eru Kapa Kingi (Chairperson)
Emily Anselmi
Eden Brown
Jordan Brown
Jay Evett
Corey Fuimaono
Jacinta Gulasekharam
Raven Maeder
Teaonui McKenzie
Tom Rutherford
Jacinta Taliau'li
Michelle Too