

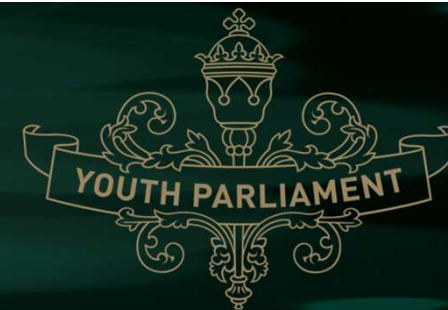
Parliamentary Working Group

Addressing barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa

Findings and Recommendations

Te Puni Kōkiri

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Inquiry Topic

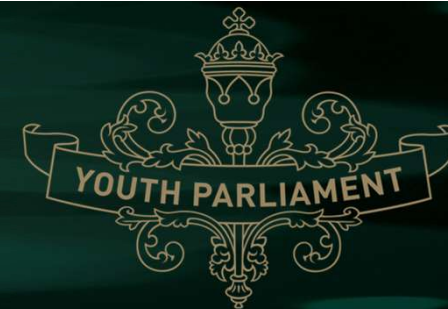


What are the main barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand? How can these barriers be systematically addressed?

The PWG considered

- The effectiveness of current government policies and support systems for te reo Māori.
- Assessment of te reo Māori educational resources and proposed solutions for any identified gaps.
- Public attitudes towards te reo Māori and strategies to help improve public perceptions.

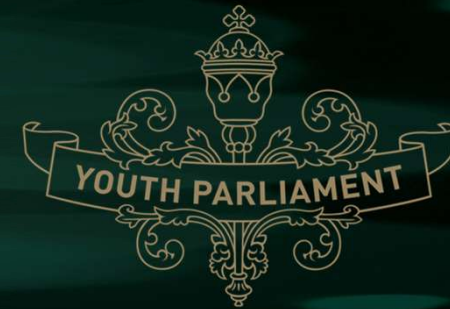
Key findings and insights



Based on community engagement and discussions here at Parliament, the PWG has identified several key findings and insights:

Funding	Mindsets	Access
Media	Historic suppression	

KEY FINDINGS *(more detail)*



Funding

There is a huge lack of funding for te reo Māori in schools and in the public sector, specifically funding for Kaiako Māori and supporting them in pushing for the advancement of Te Reo Māori.

Classrooms outside of Kura.

Mindsets

There is huge stigma around learning and speaking te reo Māori.

Access

Te reo Māori is hard to access out of secondary school. Even with in that the language is only used in te reo.

KEY FINDINGS *(more detail)*



Media

There isn't enough representation of Māori in western media. Not enough te reo being used in news, on social media and in TV. Making te reo fun.

Accurate Māori translate

Historic Suppression

Past language loss. History that had suppressed Māori, their culture and their language.

Intergenerational trauma.

Resources

Lack of Kaiako, Lack of resources to learn Te Reo.

Kura Kaupapa are too small.

Recommendations



From the PWG's findings, the following recommendations should be considered to Addressing barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa.

One

Utilise the media, to change the public's attitude surrounding te reo Māori

Media representations

Amplifying Māori Media today (Whakaata Māori etc.), Bring Rangatahi Whakaaro into spaces like the Te Reo Channel to make it more engaging and appealing for the new generation, make Māori television more engaging, as rangatahi we struggle to engage with Māori media due to the lack of appeal to us a Rangatahi, having a Rangatahi help in Media spaces would only further cater to the world we live in now and help activity engage Māori into learning Te Reo as Māori Media would become interesting to watch.

Push to Integrate Te Reo Māori within Mainstream Media, Normalize

Report more on Māori success

If the media changes their attitude towards Māori and push more celebratory stories in Maori success rather than focusing on the challenges Māori face, the public attitudes towards Māori would change, in turn, the public attitudes towards Te Reo Māori would change, making Te Reo Māori all the much more welcoming

Place more Māori liaisons in media spaces

Recommendations



From the PWG's findings, the following recommendations should be considered to Addressing barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa

Two

Equitably fund Māori-Medium education

The education budget for 2025 is \$23.7 billion. But Māori-medium education receives just over \$100 million — that's only 0.42% of the total.

Māori make up 20% of the population. If funding were fair, we'd receive at least \$4.2 billion

While we support every dollar allocated to kura throughout Aotearoa, the funding disparities remain undeniable. Māori-medium education continues to face inequitable resourcing

"With barely a cent to spare, Māori education continues to deliver excellence — not because it's well-resourced, but because it's deeply rooted in identity, community, and resilience. Imagine the heights we could reach with the support we deserve." - Hana Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke

Recommendations



From the PWG's findings, the following recommendations should be considered to Addressing barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa

Three

Strategic planning:

- **Gap:** Lack of clear, strategic planning for the growth of te reo Māori in schools.
- **Details:** Schools often do not have a well-defined vision or plan for integrating te reo Māori into their curriculum and daily activities.

Make it mandatory for Kura to set goals and targets in achieving a certain level of confidence within te reo Māori (just as they would for NCEA results), as an example it could be structured like; *"we will work towards achieving a goal of 45% of our students being able to confidently understand the basics of te reo Māori across a three-year plan, this will be revised annual to ensure our targets are on track to be reached by the end of the triennial plan"*