

Ka Awatea: An iwi case study of Māori student success

(Macfarlane, Webber, McRae & Cookson-Cox, 2014)

- *What are the qualities of high achieving Māori students?*
- *In what ways do these qualities of success manifest in high achieving Māori students?*

Table 1. *Study Participants*

Participants	Survey	Individual Interviews	Focus Groups	Total
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	
Students	66	5	61	132
Teachers	38	10	32	80
Principal/DP	5	8	-	13
Parents/Whānau	29	2	17	48
Pakeke	-	5	-	5
Tuakana	-	5	-	5
Total	138	35	110	283

Tunohopu



Questionnaire (Quantitative and Qualitative items) x 138

Individual interviews & focus group interviews x 145

Quality 1

High-achieving Māori students have a positive sense of Māori identity

Characteristics

A belief in and knowledge of one's self; strength of character, strength of personality; a strong will; boldness and a tendency to take risks

Application to school & work (Māori Icon - Tamatekapua)

- Resilient to negative stereotypes
- Positive self-concept
- Some knowledge of language and protocols
- Connection to land and place (genealogy)



Quality 2

High-achieving Māori students are diligent and have an internal locus of control

Characteristics

Patience, commitment and a sacrifice of time and effort; an ability to overcome difficulties; resolute confidence often balanced with a quiet, unruffled calm.

Application to school & work (Māori Icon – Frederick Bennett)

- Disciplined
- Self-motivated
- Attentive
- Focused



Quality 3

High-achieving Māori students learn how to nurture strong relationships

Characteristics

The ability to sustain relationships that are premised on a balance of assertiveness and warmth (manaaki) because this provides sustenance for the inner person.

Application to school & work (Māori Icon – Te Ao Kapurangi)

- Encouraging
- Willing to learn from others
- Willing to mentor others
- Aware of own strengths and weaknesses



Quality 4

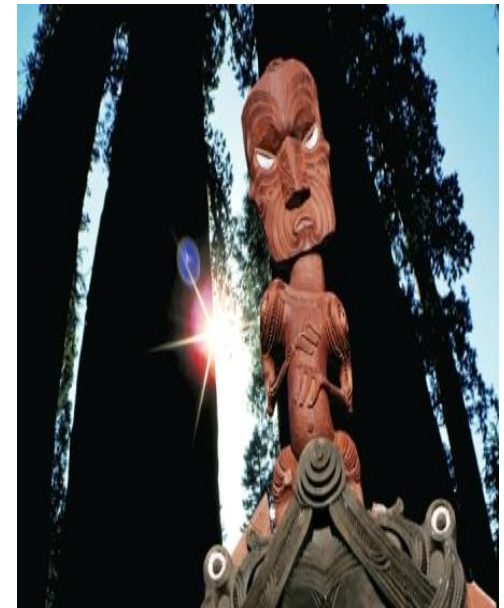
High-achieving Māori students are curious and innovative

Characteristics

An enquiring mind which probes, draws conclusions and makes associations; an exploratory orientation that is exploited in social and academic activities.

Application to school & work (Māori Icon – Ihenga)

- Courageous
- Competitive
- Curious
- Creative



Quality 5

High-achieving Māori students look after their wellbeing

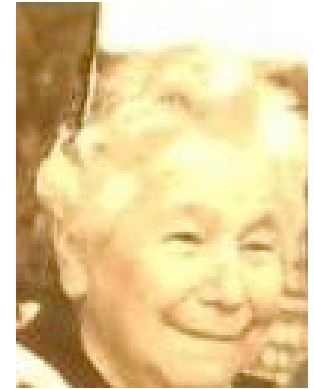
Characteristics

Attention to physical, spiritual and mental health needs that are needed to flourish at school, affirming the inexplicable link between wellness and learning.

Application to school & work

(Māori Icon – Nanny Bubbles Mihinui)

- Healthy
- Fit
- Resourceful
- Balanced



Quality 6

High-achieving Māori students are scholars

Characteristics

An aptitude for things scholarly and a commitment to excellence are evident

Application to school & work

(Māori Icon – Makereti)

- Can apply themselves
- Driven
- Purposeful
- Aspirational



Quality 7

High-achieving Māori students possess humility

Characteristics

A quality which is often a cultural point of difference because it is about service to others, generosity of spirit and putting others before the self.

Application to school & work (Māori Icon – Dr Hiko Hohepa)

- Puts others before self
- Accept criticism
- Work in service to others
- Team player



Quality 8

High-achieving Māori students understand core Māori values

Characteristics

A synthesising of the most meaningful qualities in one's Māori culture, portrayed by way of aroha (love), manaaki (care) and wairua (spirituality).

Application to school & work (Māori Icon – Wihapi Winiata)

- Manaakitanga – ability to care and be hospitable to others
- Kotahitanga – ability to commit to a kaupapa/vision
- Wairuatanga – moral compass and sense of social justice





NGĀ PAE O TE
MĀRAMATANGA

The complete manuscript is available on the Ngā Pae o te Maramatanga website

<http://www.maramatanga.co.nz/project/ka-awatea-iwi-case-study-m%C4%81ori-students-experiencing-success>



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