



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND**
IHI AOTEAROA

Local Play Workforce Project – Tākaro Māori 2023-2026

—
Expression of Interest - Guidance
September 2023

Tihei Mauriora!
 Ki te Whai-ao, ki te Ao-mārama.
 Ka tū kei runga, ko wai koe?
 Ko Tū, ko Rongo koe, ko Tāne koe.
 Ko te manuhiri i ahu mai i Hawaiki,
 Nau mai.

This sneeze is the sign of a new life in this world.
 And when you are mature, who shall you be?
 You shall be Tū, you shall be Rongo, you shall be Tāne
 To you who come from Hawaiki,
 We welcome your presence¹.

Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by Ihi Aotearoa

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is Aotearoa New Zealand’s founding document. Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa (Ihi Aotearoa) is committed to upholding the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We are committed to partnership with tangata whenua and the protection of Māori culture and taonga. We value the distinctiveness that tangata whenua brings to physical activity and our success on the world stage. We believe a strong bi-cultural foundation is critical to our national identity and wellbeing.

Aotearoa New Zealand will realise its full potential in play, active recreation and sport when tangata whenua and all who live in Aotearoa New Zealand are able to participate and succeed as themselves.

Ihi Aotearoa Strategic Direction 2020-2032

Our Purpose

To contribute to the wellbeing of everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand by leading an enriching and inspiring play, active recreation and sport system.

Our Vision

“Every Body Active.” Every Body Active means:

- All tamariki, rangatahi and adults being physically active through play, active recreation and sport.
- No one missing out on the benefits of play, active recreation and sport, regardless of factors such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or where in Aotearoa New Zealand they live.
- Every New Zealander is able to access a quality experience at home, within their neighbourhood and across the community.
- Communities are collaborating, generating ideas, and owning the creation and promotion of opportunities for all New Zealanders to be active.

¹ Marsden, 2003, p. 11

Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa

Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa Māori Outcomes Framework

To aspire toward our bold longer-term vision, Ihi Aotearoa has established Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa, the Ihi Aotearoa Māori Outcomes Framework. To support this framework, Te Aho a Ihi Aotearoa (Māori Activation plan) was created to provide a way to measure progress against Te Pākē. The whāinga of Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa is tangata whenua are enabled to participate and succeed as tangata whenua.

- Kia Pono ki te kaupapa - Be authentic to the purpose
- Kia Tika te mahi - Act with integrity
- Me Aroha ki te tangata - Respect others

The above mātāpono are the key pou of Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa and, by extension, Te Aho a Ihi Aotearoa. They are also the names of our three mauri pounamu sourced from the Arahura river in Te Waipounamu. Ihi Aotearoa are privileged to be kaitiaki of these taonga. For Ihi Aotearoa these mauri pounamu are symbolic of our bi-cultural heritage and future, and a tangible reminder of our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori.

Local Play Workforce Project

Ihi Aotearoa values and advocates the importance of play as a foundational building block in the lives of tamariki, supporting their holistic development through who they are, where they play and the place they hold in their neighbourhoods, and society in general.

Play provides the space for tamariki to grow, develop and flourish across cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and cultural elements. A wide range of play experiences gives them a great start to life and enables a lifelong love of being physically active.

In November 2021, the Board of Ihi Aotearoa approved [Kia Hianga](#), our bi-cultural Play Plan 2022-25, to guide our actions for improving play and tākaro outcomes for tamariki.

The Board also approved a new \$8.64m investment to establish a workforce to drive play and tākaro aspirations at a local level through a waka hourua model, called the *Local Play Workforce Project*. This investment complements other Ihi Aotearoa investments in play and tākaro including the [Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa](#) community activation fund.

The Local Play Workforce Project aims to further develop the national play system, with a focus on establishing local and regional workforce roles inside key organisations across Aotearoa New Zealand to improve play and tākaro outcomes.

Local Play Workforce Project – Councils

To date, we have focused on the Local Play Workforce Project – Councils and have established 11 Local Play Advocate roles inside local councils in our larger territorial authority areas. Over three years, we will establish a total of 18 roles inside councils, aiming to cover over 70 percent of tamariki nationally.

Local Play Workforce Project – Tākaro Māori

Now we seek to bring greater focus and resource to the tangata whenua side of the waka hourua. Ihi Aotearoa has gained considerable knowledge and insights of what play means in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is reflected in our ongoing commitment to honouring tangata whenua and tākaro Māori (traditional Māori play practices and traditions). Our Local Play Workforce Project – Tākaro Māori investment is aimed at strengthening the tākaro Māori system in Aotearoa.

Tākaro Māori allows tamariki Māori and their whānau to experience joy and fun while giving them the opportunity to make sense of their culture, whakapapa, and the world they live in.

Through enabling the ongoing development of tākaro Māori, we aim to support tamariki and their whānau and hāpori to create meaningful connections with others, help enable cultural

knowledge and language transmission across generations, and promote the revitalisation of tākarō Māori at all levels.

The Local Play Workforce Project – Tākarō Māori will invest into a tākarō Māori workforce and empower that workforce to operate equitably alongside the Local Play Workforce Project – Councils, as envisaged within Kia Hīanga.

Investment Approach

Ihi Aotearoa will invest \$4.3m over the next three years to improve tākarō outcomes for tamariki Māori.

Initial investment into the Local Play Workforce Project – Tākarō Māori will create the first workforce cohort of four to five organisations and providers. This cohort will have demonstrable experience, connections and vision in developing tākarō opportunities for tamariki, their whānau and communities, and the wider tākarō system. They will use their current lived experiences, awareness, knowledge and understanding of tākarō Māori to co-design and shape subsequent workforce investment, as well as the learning and development needs in future phases.

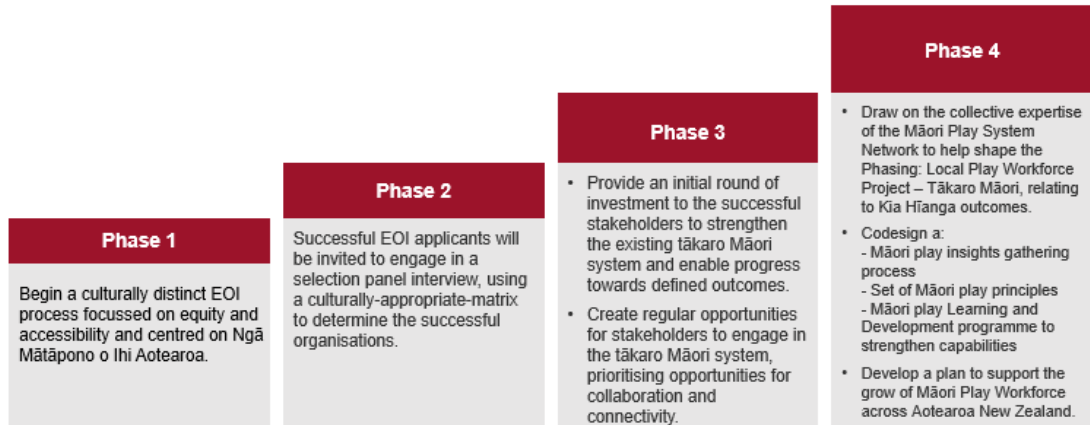
This opportunity is also intended to enhance the existing tākarō Māori capacity and capability of these providers.

Following Cohort One, two more cohorts of workforce roles will be created, with each role being invested in for three years.

The project will see:

- Three-year investments, starting with a first cohort focused, followed by two further cohorts. The second cohort is likely to start 1 July 2024.
- Tamariki Māori being supported to engage in tākarō that is for Māori, by Māori, as Māori – resulting in more quality tākarō experiences and opportunity for tamariki Māori and their ability to be more active.
- An equitable and culturally distinct approach undertaken to enable the restoration, reclamation, and revitalisation of tākarō Māori.
- Connections between the key stakeholders within the existing tākarō Māori system strengthened and their capacity and capability enhanced.
- The learning and development needs of the tākarō Māori system identified and supported.

Phasing: Local Play Workforce Project – Tākaro Māori



Expressions of interest

We welcome expressions of interest for the initial investment from all organisations and providers currently committed to the improvement and enabling of physical activity for tamariki Māori through the restoration, revitalisation and reclamation of tākaro Māori in Aotearoa.

We recognise that to access the full richness of Aotearoa New Zealand’s increasingly bi-cultural play culture, providers and organisations already invested in tākaro Māori (traditional Māori play practices and traditions) need to first be acknowledged and supported.

Successful applicants in the EOI phase will be invited to engage in a follow-up process that includes an interview with a selection panel.

This phase will result in an initial cohort of tākaro Māori providers being established. Our aspiration is to begin with an initial round of investment and provide resources to recognised leaders in tākaro Māori. These actions will ensure this cohort is well-positioned to support the ongoing development of tākaro Māori across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Expression of Interest Form

If you are an organisation (or are engaged in collaboration with other organisations) currently active within the tākaro Māori system, please submit your expression of interest in this project by completing this [EOI form](#), which includes three alignment questions.

Alignment Questions

As part of our aspiration to be guided by Ngā Mātāpono o Ihi Aotearoa, we wish to invite applicants to submit their expressions of interest centered around these mātāpono and the outcomes of Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa:

- Kia pono ki te kaupapa – Be authentic to the purpose
- Kia tika te mahi – Act with integrity
- Me Aroha ki te tangata – Respect others

If you are interested in applying, please provide detailed responses to the associated questions.

Please note that applicants can choose to respond to the questions with written responses of 500 words maximum or by video recording (no more than 4 minutes per question).

Application Timeline

7 September: Local Play Workforce Project – Tākaro Māori EOI call for submissions opens.

12 and 18 September: Webinars explaining the project and the application process.

29 September: Closing date for submissions. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2–13 October: Shortlisting process. Successful applicants notified and invited to engage in follow up process including selection panel interview.

16 October–3 November: Interviews undertaken with questions guided by a culturally-appropriate decision-making matrix.

6–10 November: Final decision making.

Week of 13 November: Successful applicants notified and invited to sign contracts.

Questions

If you have any questions throughout the process, please contact Martini Miller-Pānapa, Kaipūkenga Tāngata Whenua Tākaro, Ihi Aotearoa – Martini.Miller-Panapa@sportnz.org.nz