

Kia kaha, te reo Māori! **Kia kaha, Aotearoa!**

CHRISTINE AMMUNSON reflects on the central role of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori as the COVID crisis has taken hold.

Te reo Māori has played a central role in the Crown's response to the coronavirus or as our translators named it: Mate Korona. In the first days of lockdown, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori assembled our nation's leading translators into a specialist, rapid response reo Māori team. By collaborating as a team, peer reviewing, and creating new terms related to the virus, they provided translations seven days a week, often well into the early hours.

"With the wellbeing of our families at stake, it has been critical to ensure that te reo messaging about COVID-19 has been accurate, timely, and agile. We are indebted to our language experts who came together to fight the virus in te reo Māori," says Māori Language Commission chief executive, Ngahiwi Apanui.

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PEOPLE ARE USING TE REO
MĀORI TO SHOW COMFORT,
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"Our plans for a rapid response translation team began before lockdown, and by the middle of the first week, it was up and running. We have supported the translation of key messages from a range of agencies including COVID-Command, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri, and NZ Police."

The commission is working to make the te reo translation hub more permanent.

"Until we find a cure, we need to ensure that long term, key messaging affecting the health of New Zealanders is available in both of our spoken languages," says Ngahiwi Apanui.

"People often fail to understand that te reo does not have the same resources other languages have. If you compare translating a document into German, for example: that language has a wealth of corpus and resources, as well as an entire German-speaking nation. Te reo does not have that. Our translators face obstacles majority language translators do not.

"Our organisation is responsible for revitalising te reo Māori in New Zealand, so it has been humbling to see, that in our darkest times, people are using te reo Māori to show comfort, solidarity, and strength. Terms like 'Kia kaha' popped up

across social media, on home-made signs in dairies, on motorways, and even in the message sent to New Zealanders from Queen Elizabeth II. We know that thousands signed up to learn te reo throughout the lockdown."

In the first week of lockdown, the commission also used te reo to help people make sense of rules that seemed at odds with so many things New Zealanders hold close.

"We acknowledged that while our tikanga may have changed forever: our values had not. Manaakitanga was still about kindness, respect, and caring for others but during lockdown the best way to show manaaki to other people was by staying at home and staying away. Manaakitanga now meant calling our loved ones from afar to make sure they're OK. Manaakitanga meant buying what we needed not buying everything so there's nothing left for others.

"Heartbreakingly, manaakitanga also meant burying our loved ones without tangihanga and funerals. We pay tribute to those families across Aotearoa who kept the rest of us safe as they farewelled those closest to them during lockdown. We remember our raukura Dr Huirangi Waikerepuru – te reo visionary, warrior, and navigator – who was laid to rest under the shadow of Taranaki Maunga during Level 4 lockdown."

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori began planning for COVID-19 in early March, and the week before lockdown, those staff at most risk due to age or health issues were sent home to work.

"We're all learning how to do things in different ways. Since our inception, our office has paused every morning for karakia, waiata, and notices. A week before lockdown, our office karakia went online and we have continued to gather every day at 9.15am as we always have," says Ngahiwi Apanui.

**THOUSANDS SIGNED UP TO
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"Meanwhile, our staff have worked tirelessly and, in spite of a global pandemic, productivity is high as is morale.

"Our focus throughout has been safeguarding the wellbeing of our staff, working alongside our colleagues across the public sector, and making sure we do everything we can to fight COVID-19 in te reo Māori. Kia kaha, te reo Māori! Kia kaha, Aotearoa!"

Kia kaha, te reo Māori! Kia kaha, Aotearoa!



I tino whai tikanga te reo Māori i roto i te urupare a te Karauna ki te Mate Korona, te ingoa i tapaina ai e ō mātou kaiwhakamāori ki te Coronavirus. I ngā rangi tuatahi o te rāhui ka whakaemihia e Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori ō mātou kaiwhakawhitireo mātāmua o te motu hei tira mātanga, arā, hei whana kai reo Māori. Mā te mahi tahi hei tira, mā te arotake a tētahi i tētahi, mā te tito kupu hou e pā ana ki te mate huaketo nei, ka horahia ngā whakamāoritanga i ngā rā e whitu o te wiki, ao te pō, pō te ao.

“Ko te oranga o ō tātou whānau te kaupapa nui nā reira e hira ana kia tika, kia tutuki i te wā tika, kia tere ngāwariwari hoki ngā rongo kōrero mō te KOWHEORI-19 i te reo Māori. Ka nui ngā mihi ki ō tātou mātanga reo Māori i hui tahi mai ki te whawhai i te huaketo nei i te reo Māori,” hei tā Ngāhiwi Apanui, te tumuaki o Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

“I tīmata ā mātou mahi mahere mō te whana kai reo Māori i mua i te rāhui, ā, nō waenganui i te wiki tuatahi ka maunu te tira. Kua tautoko mātou i te whakamāoritanga o ngā rongo kōrero matua mai i ngā momo tari pēnei i te COVID-Command (Te Matua - KOWHEORI), Te Manatū Hauora, Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga, Te Puni Kōkiri, me Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa.”

Kei te whai huarahi a Te Taura Whiri kia pūmau kē te noho a te tira whakawhitireo.

“Hei tā Apanui anō, “Kia kitea rā anō he rongoā, me aronui mātou ki te paeroa o te whakaputa i ngā rongo kōrero matua mō te hauora o ngā tāngata o Aotearoa ki ō tātou reo kōrero e rua.”

“He nui te kore mārāma o te tangata, kāore nei e rite te pukahu o ngā rauemi mō te reo (Māori) pērā i ētahi atu reo. Hei whakatauiru atu, ki te whakataurite i te whakawhiti i tētahi tuhinga ki te reo Tiamana: ka nui rawa ngā tuhinga me ngā rauemi o taua reo, tae atu hoki ki te katoa o te whenua kōrero Tiamana. Kāore i pērā mō

te reo Māori. Koirā kē ngā tauārai hei whakamātautau i ō mātou kaiwhakawhitireo, kāore nei i te rangona e ngā kaiwhakawhitireo o ngā reo matua.”

“Ko te kaupapa nui o tō mātou tari he whakarauora i te reo Māori i Aotearoa, nā reira ko te mihi a te ngākau iti tēnei ki te hunga e whakamahi ana i te reo Māori hei whakapuaki i te oranga ngākau, i te kotahitanga, i te kaha hoki i tēnei wā pōuri whakaharahara. Arā kē te kīanga “Kia kaha” i putaputa noa mai i te pae pāho pāpori, i ngā tohu hanga noa i ngā toa, i ngā ara matua, tae atu hoki ki te karere i tukuna mai e Kuini Irihāpeti te Tuarua ki te iwi o Aotearoa. Kei te mōhio mātou e hia mano ngā tāngata i whakauru mai ki te ako i te reo i te wā o te rāhui.”

I te wiki tuatahi hoki o te rāhui i whakaritea e Te Taura Whiri ko te reo Māori hei āwhina i ngā tāngata kia mārāma ake ai rātou ki ngā ture i tukituki nei ki ngā tikanga e maha i piri ai ngā tāngata o Aotearoa.

“E mōhio ana, ahakoa kua rerekē ā tātou tikanga haere ake nei, kāore rawa atu ō tātou kaingākau/uaratanga. Ko te tikanga tonu o te *manakitanga* ko te atawhai, ko te whakakoha, ko te tiaki i ētahi atu, engari ko te tohu kē o te *manaaki* i ētahi atu i te wā o te rāhui, ko te noho ki te kāinga me te wehe kia mamao. Ka mutu ko te tohu o te *manaakitanga* ko te waea atu i tawhiti ki te hunga e arohaina ana kia kitea mēnā e pai ana rātou. Ko te tohu anō o te *manaakitanga* ko te hoko i ō tātou hiahiatanga ake, kāore i te hoko i ngā mea katoa ka kore e mahue mai he aha mō ētahi atu.”

“Ko te pōuri nui hoki o taua manaakitanga anō, ko te nehu kore tangihanga nei i ō tātou tūpāpaku. Nā reira e mihi atu ana ki ngā whānau puta noa i Aotearoa i manaaki mai kia noho haumaruru ai mātou i a rātou e poroporoaki ana i ō rātou mate i te wā o te rāhui. E maumahara ana ki to tātou raukura, ki a Tākuta Huirangi Waikerepuru – te matakite o te reo, te toa o te reo, te kaiurungi o te reo – i nehua i raro i te maru o te maunga o Taranaki i te wā o te rāhui o te Pae Mataara 4.”

I tīmata a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori ki te whakamahere mō te KOWHEORI-19 i te tōmuatanga o Poutūterangi, ā, nō te wiki i mua atu i te rāhui ka tukuna kia mahi i te kāinga ko ērā o ngā kaimahi e noho whakamōrearea ana i runga i ō rātou pakeketanga, ō rātou tūmate rānei.

“Kei te ako katoa mātou me pēhea te mahi mā roto i ngā rerekētanga o te mahi. Mai rā anō i tō mātou ōrokohanga mai, i whakatau mātou i ia ata ki te karakia, ki te waiata, ki te tuku pānui hoki. Nō te wiki i mua i te rāhui, ka tukuna tā mātou karakia mā te ipurangi, ā, kei te pērā tonu mātou i te 9.15 i te ata i ia rā,” hei tā Apanui.

“Heoi, kei te kaha te mahi a ō mātou kaimahi, ā, kei te nui te whakaputanga mahi, kei te ora hoki te wairua, ahakoa te urutā, te mate nui o te ao.”

“Ko tō mātou aronga nui ko te tiaki i te oranga o ō mātou kaimahi, ko te mahi tahi me ō mātou hoa horapa i te rāngai tūmatanui, ā, ko te whai kia pau te kaha ki te whawhai atu i te KOWHEORI-19 i te reo Māori. Kia kaha te reo Māori! Kia kaha Aotearoa!”