

**Title (10 words maximum)**

*This will be shown in the programme timetable, so think of something catchy to attract attendees to come and listen to your presentation!*

Te Kura Tūtahi – Mana motuhake and Māori leadership in education

**Full abstract (300 words maximum)**

*The full abstract is to assist with the reviewing and scoring of your presentation, to determine whether it meets the criteria. It will also be displayed in the app and online programme if accepted.*

This presentation shares findings from Te Kura Tūtahi, a kaupapa Māori research project led by Te Wāhanga (NZCER). The rangahau explores how mana motuhake is lived and led in kaupapa Māori education, drawing on kōrero with Pou Māori across four kura: Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe, TIPENE, Kia Aroha Campus, and Te Kura Māori o Porirua.

Pou Māori in this rangahau include tumuaki, board members, kaiako, ākonga, whānau, and graduates, reflecting how leadership in Māori education is collective. Their kōrero highlight that leadership is about relationships, values, and actions. It's grounded in whanaungatanga, aroha, and whakapapa, and lived through everyday practices as much as through formal positions.

The findings show leadership grows through service, shared responsibility, and collective vision. It's nurtured daily in ways that strengthen identity and belonging. Mana motuhake is foundational, expressed through te reo Māori, tikanga, and autonomy to shape learning. Whānau are active partners across generations, often returning as kaiako, mentors, or leaders. Success is defined by Māori, for Māori, where cultural identity and achievement go hand in hand.

Kaupapa Māori education creates conditions for mana motuhake to flourish. These kura are kāinga rua, whare wānanga, and sites of transformation where tino rangatiratanga is reclaimed and reimagined in practice.

This research contributes to promoting Te Ao Māori in education by articulating how Māori leadership is sustained across generations. It offers insights for whānau considering kaupapa Māori pathways, and for educators and policymakers seeking approaches that strengthen equity, wellbeing, and Māori aspirations.

Attendees will gain an understanding of how mana motuhake is woven in collective leadership, why this matters for Māori educational success, and how these insights can influence education across Aotearoa.

This mahi was previously presented at WIPCE and NZARE in November 2025, under the title Mana Māori Motuhaketanga: Māori Leadership in Kaupapa Māori Education Settings.