

MATUA REO KAUPAPA – MĀORI LANGUAGE POLICY

Section	University Management
Contact	Office of the AVC Māori and Pasifika
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Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Massey University will recognise Māori Language as an official language of the University.

Introduction:

The Māori Language Act 1987 declared Māori to be an official language of New Zealand with particular implications for Government departments, Crown agencies and Crown entities. However the Act was not prescriptive and there were no statutory requirements for its implementation (except in relationship to Courts).

In successive Charter revisions since 1989, Massey University has recognised Māori language as an official language of the University and has had a partial Māori language policy at least since 1997.

Under that policy students have been permitted to write assignments and examinations in Māori [Assessment and Examination Regulations, regulation 17: 'The Māori language is an official language of the University. Those considered to have the necessary level of competency may write assignments, tests, and examinations in Māori, subject to approval and where the subject is considered to be appropriate...' Massey University 2005 Calendar].

During the 2001 Ten Year planning exercise it was agreed that a more comprehensive policy was needed and in 2003 Māori@Massey identified the formulation of a Māori Language Policy as a priority project. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) subsequently established a working party, headed by Professor Tairahia Black, to recommend on a policy; in 2004 the working party presented a detailed report which formed the basis for this policy.

Definitions:

Te Reo Māori refers to the Māori Language

Matua Reo Kaupapa refers to the Māori Language Policy

Policy:

Promotion of Te Reo Māori

Massey University will actively promote the retention, transmission, and development of te reo Māori and will report annually on progress and achievements in:

- teaching and research programmes
- activities of the Māori language advisory group
- domains of usage and sites of visibility
- fluency in te reo Māori among the University staff
- measures to ensure high quality of te reo Māori

- participation in government, tribal and community forums related to the retention, transmission, and development of te reo Māori.

Teaching and research programmes

- (a) Massey University will ensure that there are academic provisions including student learning support within the relevant Colleges for students to study te reo Māori and to study in the medium of te reo Māori at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and through internal and extramural modes. Teaching programmes may be generic (suitable for a general student audience) or applied (for students who have particular professional requirements) and will have regard for Māori as both a spoken and a written language.
- (b) Academic units which teach te reo Māori will also undertake research related to the further development of Māori language and will seek opportunities to participate in externally funded research programmes where te reo Māori is a major focus.
- (c) A characteristic of Massey University te reo Māori research and teaching programmes will be excellence and high levels of achievement.
- (d) In accordance with the Massey University Assessment and Examination Regulations all students enrolled at Massey University will be able to complete assignments, tests and examinations in te reo Māori, provided prior approval has been obtained and the subject area is considered to be appropriate.

Māori Language Advisory Group

A Māori Language Advisory Group will advise on the appropriate usage of te reo Māori within the University and ensure that a consistent approach is adopted by colleges, divisions and campuses in the use of Māori words, phrases, imagery and icons. Although the Group will not have a direct role in teaching and research programmes it may identify issues and opportunities for academic units to pursue. (b) The Advisory Group will be responsible to the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori and Pasifika. It will include staff members who are able to advise on the use of te reo Māori, the Communications Account Manager – Māori and Pasifika, and will be broadly representative of colleges, campuses and appropriate divisions.

Multiple domains of usage and sites of visibility

- (a) The University will promote the use and high visibility of te reo Māori through:
 - University branding including stationery, signage, publications, websites
 - University occasions
 - marketing and communications
 - Māori names and titles (for staff positions, facilities, structures)
- (b) In all of these domains, the Māori Language Advisory Group will make recommendations and will ensure that there is consistency and quality across the University.

Staff fluency in te reo Māori

- (a) Massey University staff should have the opportunity to acquire proficiency in te reo Māori. As part of staff development there will be provision for all staff to acquire a basic level of competence and understanding.
- (b) Where Māori language is required as part of a staff function, a relevant minimum level of fluency in te reo Māori will be required.
- (c) In order to increase the level of proficiency in te reo Māori across the University, competence in Māori language, measured against academic and national standards, will be regarded as a desirable qualification in relevant areas.
- (d) Where a staff position explicitly requires Māori language skills, advertisements and interviews will use te reo Māori

Measures to ensure high quality of te reo Māori

- (a) An important function of the Māori Language Advisory Group will be to offer advice on quality and consistency.
- (b) Quality in University communications will also be emphasised by ensuring that University-wide electronic systems have standardised approaches to the use of macrons, a Māori language spell-checking tool, and an optional Māori language software suite as part of the standard software bundle installed on personal computers.

- (c) Specific issues surrounding the intellectual property of Māori language resources will be provided for in the University's Intellectual Property policy.
- (d) University Publication Policy will be consistent with the Matua Reo Policy.

Participation in forums relating to te reo Māori

- (a) as part of its wider role, Massey University will be a national contributor to policies and programmes leading to the retention, transmission, and development of te reo Māori.
- (b) In addition to teaching and research, the University may host and participate in events that actively promote te reo Māori.
- (c) The contribution made by Massey University will build on its academic credibility and will be distinguishable from the contributions made by other agencies, iwi, Crown entities, and media organisations.

Audience:

Council, all students, staff, external stakeholders

Relevant Legislation:

Māori Language Act 1987
State Sector Act 1988 (section 77A)
Education Act 1989
Education (Tertiary Reform) Amendment Act 2002

Legal Compliance:

This policy is consistent with the Massey University Charter and Profile, and University regulations. It is also consistent with legislation.

Related Procedures:

Māori@Massey
[Massey University Charter](#)
[Massey University Profile](#)
[Massey University Calendar](#)
[Intellectual Property Policy](#)
[Publication Policy](#)
[KIA MĀRAMA: Key Initiatives to Accelerate Massey's Academic & Research Agenda for Māori Advancement](#)

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