

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award 2015



Leonie Pihama

Associate Professor, Dr. Leonie Pihama is a leading kaupapa Māori educator and researcher, well-known to our communities. She graduated with an MA (First Class Hons) and PhD in the field of Education, the University of Auckland in the 1990s and early 2000s. This was a pivotal time and place for the development of education. Dr. Pihama played a critical part in the emergence of kaupapa Māori in education alongside other well known Māori academics at Te Aratiatia. Dr. Pihama's key contribution at this time was her focus on kaupapa Māori theory, in particular, mana wahine. Her teaching, research and scholarship has always been clearly positioned within kaupapa Māori, and mātauranga Māori.

Soon after graduating with her PhD, Dr. Pihama was appointed the Director of the International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education (IRI), Faculty of Arts, The University of Auckland, where she began to extend and broaden her educational research networks both nationally and internationally. Since then, Dr. Pihama has been working in the intersecting fields of education, Māori immersion education, health and whānau wellbeing.

Capacity building has always been a core part of Dr. Pihama's work. As Director of Te Kotahi Research Institute, University of Waikato, she has established a capacity building programme in collaboration with Waikato-Tainui Research and Development College. This programme has been a huge success, and supported kaupapa Māori theory and research training for more than 230 people in the past two years.

Further to this, her commitment to supporting the next generation of Māori scholars is evidenced in a number of current research projects she is involved in, both in New Zealand and overseas. She is the recipient of the inaugural Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award (2011) at the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute, University of Washington, and has hosted two highly regarded international 'He Manawa Whenua Indigenous Research Conferences' (2013, 2015).

Associate Professor, Dr. Leonie Pihama is well-regarded as a senior kaupapa Māori education academic, with a strong history of teaching, research and scholarship. Her contribution to Māori knowledge and Māori education is not only seen in her work as an academic, but through her active participation in whanau, hapu, iwi, and communities: Kohanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori and Wānanga. Kaupapa Māori education is not something that Dr. Leonie Pihama teaches, it is the way she lives her life.



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