



Titiro Whakamua is a set of learning experiences to explore some key events in the history of Aotearoa, New Zealand. These experiences begin by understanding the foundations of tangata whenua as mana whenua on this land. It then reveals how intergenerational disparity for Māori began to play out, with the onset of colonisation. Dispelling many of the colonial 'mythtakes'<sup>1</sup> or 'deliberately concocted falsehoods' about Māori, Māori acts of resistance and revitalisation are also emphasised.

*It brings the inequity, quietly endured by our Māori students, to the front of all of our teachers' and leaders' thinking and allows more and more teachers and leaders to realise that they actually have the agency to make transformative change.*

School Leader

## Collective Sense-making

The learning experiences in Titiro Whakamua provide opportunities for participants to talk and make sense of specific colonial events and legislation that have perpetuated racism and inequity in Aotearoa. Participants are encouraged to consider the way in which their own beliefs, values and practices may reinforce colonial systems and structures that perpetuate inequity and racism. Often, this experience of 'owning' their history, and a realisation of the personal responsibility that ensues, is confronting. Participants are supported to activate their agency and identify what needs to be understood, resisted and dismantled if learners are to enjoy and achieve education success without having to compromise who they really are.

*Our journey is definitely a personal journey and it has to be in the heart before it gets to the head and then to our hands. So, for some people, you have guilt that you have to get past and realise that actually it's not me, but now that I know this, what can I do to go forward?*

Teacher

Titiro Whakamua is an immersive experience that allows participants to co-construct new understandings through collective sense-making. The prior knowledge of participants is activated through the use of cultural artefacts and narratives to create a shared timeline and map. In particular, conversations throughout the session highlight the power relationships between government legislation, policy and education. This has implications for Māori learners and their home communities today. Titiro Whakamua focuses on the national story; mana whenua are also invited to contribute their own local narratives.

## Links to Te Hurihanganui Pou and Principles

The Te Hurihanganui pou *Kaupapa Māori* and *Critical Consciousness* underpin the facilitation and understanding of the shared cultural narrative being constructed through Te Titiro Whakamua. The Te Hurihanganui principles: *Te Ao Māori*, *Tino Rangatiratanga*, *Whanaungatanga*, *Te Ira Tangata*, *Mana Ōrite* and *Te Hāngaitanga* are then used to deconstruct and change understandings of more traditional colonial systems and structures so that Māori can enjoy and achieve education success as Māori.

1

Jackson, M. (2019). In the end 'the hope of decolonization'. In E. McKinlay & L. Smith (Eds.), *Handbook of Indigenous Education* (pp. 101–110). Springer Nature Singapore Pte.

