



## **The Future is Behind us**

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### **Abstract**

The future of education cannot be found without looking closely at the ways of the past – the ways of indigenous peoples such as Māori in New Zealand. The wisdom of our tupuna (ancestors) gives us all the direction needed to ensure the needs of our Tauira (students) are met in today's world. Me hoki whakamuri, kia ahu whakamua, kanekē, (In order to improve and move forward we must reflect back to what has been). What we teach is not as important as how we teach it and how we support both those who teach and those who learn.

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is a tertiary education provider in Aotearoa New Zealand which facilitates whanau (extended family) transformation through education with over 30 000 adult tauira across New Zealand each year. We do this by listening to the words of our tupuna in whakatauki (proverbs), valuing the input of kaumatua (elders) and basing our everyday decisions on nga uara (values) of Aroha, te Whakapono, Nga ture and Kotahitanga. These are embodied in our daily practices and processes through the application of the lenses of Koha (contributions of consequence), Kaitiakitanga (responsible trusteeship), Ahurutanga (Safe places and spaces) and Mauri Ora (wellbeing).

As Student Support in this educational institution the support of our Tauira (students) is our top priority and the removal of barriers to their learning is the aim of our day to day work. This presentation will illustrate how we follow the path of our ancestors to provide this holistic support for our people of the future.