

Ngā Kete Oranga ā-Ahurea

Cultural Packages of Care – Funding Guidelines

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1. About Ngā Kete Oranga ā-Ahurea – Cultural Packages of Care

Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea is a national kaupapa developed by Te Kete Pounamu (TKP) and Te Rau Ora (TRO) in partnership with Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. This initiative is designed to provide person-led, whānau-centric, kaupapa Māori cultural packages of care for tangata Māori with living realities of hauora hinengaro (mental health).

The kaupapa celebrates the richness of taonga tuku iho – living arts, recreation and creative expressions that nurture identity, healing, and belonging. Aligned to the Ngā Kete e Toru framework, cultural packages of care may include activities such as mau rākau, whaikōrero, rāranga, waiata, mahi toi, wānanga, karakia and wairua connections.

Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea embodies:

- **Person-led:** Tangata Māori with living realities of hauora hinengaro (the person) are central in decision-making, design, and evaluation of their package.
- **Whānau-centric:** Whānau are encouraged to participate and be resourced as part of the healing journey.
- **Tikanga Māori focused:** Guided by mātauranga Māori, tikanga and whakapapa connections rather than clinical models alone.

2. Goals and Objectives

The overall purpose of Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea is to **enable tangata to access meaningful, culturally grounded support that strengthens whakapapa, identity and oranga hinengaro.**

Key goals are to:

1. Enable tangata to design and lead their own cultural pathways of care alongside whānau and supporters.
2. Strengthen access to Māori cultural resources, spaces and practitioners that enhance wellbeing, healing and belonging.
3. Encourage secondary services to work in genuine partnership with kaupapa Māori providers, tohunga, kaimahi Māori and whānau ora collectives.
4. Improve equity for tangata who may be disproportionately impacted by limited access to resources.
5. Generate evidence and stories of impact that may inform future kaupapa Māori funding and system change.

3. Who Can Apply

3.1 Secondary services on behalf of Tangata

Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea is designed for:

- Tangata who are registered with specialist mental health and addiction (MH&A) secondary services.
- Co-designed involvement of services, and/or whānau, carers, support people delegated by the tangata.

Tangata will not be able to apply directly to the fund. Instead, they will co-design their package with a secondary service and support whanau, then the provider will submit the application on their behalf.

3.2 Applicants (Secondary Services)

Applications must be submitted by eligible providers, who commit to working in partnership with tangata whaiora and/or whānau ora collectives. Eligible providers include:

- Secondary specialist mental health and addiction services (Including, DHB/Te Whatu Ora and CMH services).
- Services must be working in co-design with tikanga Māori providers.

Providers must:

- Have appropriate bank account verification and financial systems in place.
- Agree to contractual requirements, including reporting and evaluation.

4. Funding Available

- Funding per package: Up to \$5,000 (incl. GST) per approved cultural package of care.
- Number of packages: Up to 160 packages per year, across two funding rounds (approximately 80 packages per round).
- Grant type: One-off, time-limited package of care, delivered within 3–6 months of contract start date.

Secondary services may submit up to 10 applications per funding round (one per person). A repeat application will only be considered:

- after the completion of a previous package(s)

Services will need to ensure the Impact Report has been submitted and accepted through the Tahua dashboard before submitting another application. Repeat applications for the same person will not be considered.

Note * A maximum of 10 packages can be granted per service.

5. What Can Be Funded

Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea supports non-clinical, culturally grounded packages that complement existing care pathways. Packages must be aligned to the Ngā Kete e Toru framework and uplift Māori cultural dimensions of oranga, identity and connection.

6. Ngā Kete e Tōru Framework

Grounded in the pūrākau of ngā kete o te wānanga, the Ngā Kete e Toru framework recognises holistic wellbeing as the integration of spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and collective dimensions of life. Grounded in tikanga Māori, this understanding supports the design of cultural packages of care that honour the full reality of a person's wellbeing journey, including what may not be immediately visible.

In the application form, providers will map proposed activities across the following three kete:

- **Te Kete Aronui – The Seen:** what is visible and observable in a person's journey (what we can notice in the physical world, behaviours, kōrero shared, and visible expressions of culture/identity).
- **Te Kete Tūāuri – The Unseen:** what sits beneath the surface (inner experiences, thoughts and feelings, and cultural/spiritual dimensions that may be sacred or not immediately visible).
- **Te Kete Tūātea – The Unknown:** what is still unfolding (unexplored potential, unexpressed needs, and future aspirations that may emerge over time).

This aligns directly with the kaupapa intent of Ngā Kete Ahurea: **person-led, whānau-centric, and kaupapa Māori**, where packages are co-designed with tangata whaiora and whānau and **“designed around Ngā Kete e Toru”** (not clinical models alone). The framework also supports the fund requirement that packages **must be mapped to Ngā Kete e Toru** and uplift Māori cultural dimensions of **oranga, identity and connection**.

How to use it in the application (simple guidance)

When completing the mapping section, think of the kete as a check that the package is **balanced and holistic**:

1. What will we do together that can be seen and experienced (Aronui)?

Prioritise whakawhanaungatanga, aroha, clear communication, and cultural respect in the design.

2. What needs to be honoured that might not be visible (Tūāuri)?

Show how the package will create space for deeper cultural/spiritual needs (e.g., taonga tuku iho, reflection/self-awareness, understanding what is not said).

3. What future possibilities might this open (Tūātea)?

Include aspirations and pathways that restore mana and expand horizons (curiosity, mana tangata, kotahitanga, tino rangatiratanga, whakamana).

Overall, Ngā Kete e Toru is a practical way to ensure the package respects the **full spectrum** of lived/living experience—seen, unseen, and still becoming—so the support remains holistic, culturally anchored, and aligned to mātauranga Māori.

Te Kete Aronui – The Seen

Activities that use visible, creative and relational expressions of culture, such as:

- **Mirimiri, romiromi and rongoā** sessions
- **Mahi toi / toi Māori:** raranga, whakairo, tā moko (non-cosmetic), kowhaiwhai, kapa haka, waiata composition
- **Purākau and storytelling** circles, including digital storytelling
- **Whānau hui, retreats, noho marae,** wānanga focused on strengthening whānau communication and support
- **Whakapakari tinana:** recreation, movement and sport grounded in tikanga (e.g. mau rākau, waka ama, hākinakina Māori).

Te Kete Tūāuri – The Unseen

Activities that deepen spiritual and cultural knowledge:

- **Te reo Māori and tikanga** wānanga
- **Karakia, spiritual and grief support**, including rituals for closure and reconnection
- Wānanga on **mātauranga Māori**, atua, whakapapa narratives
- **Healing circles** facilitated by kaumātua, tohunga, or experienced cultural practitioners.

Te Kete Tūātea – The Unknown

Activities that expand future horizons and aspirations:

- **Cultural return journeys** (e.g. visits to ancestral marae, urupā, awa, maunga)
- Creative or innovation projects that reconnect to whakapapa and whenua
- **Aspirational training** linked to cultural leadership, community contribution, or recovery journeys (e.g. facilitation training, peer support development, basic reo/tikanga training that supports future roles).

Costs may include:

- Practitioner/kaimahi fees
- Venue hire, marae koha, kai
- Equipment and materials directly related to the package (e.g. art supplies, rauemi Māori)
- Local travel and accommodation for whānau and practitioners where necessary and reasonable.

7. What Will Not Be Funded

Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea will not fund:

- Activities that are primarily clinical or medical, such as psychiatric assessments, medication, or standard therapy sessions already funded through services.
- Business-as-usual service delivery or core staffing costs not directly linked to a specific package of care.
- Capital works or large asset purchases (e.g. building renovations, vehicles).
- Activities primarily for commercial profit or private business development.

- Alcohol, tobacco, gambling or entertainment that conflicts with kaupapa Māori values.
- Activities that are not aligned with tikanga Māori, or that may cause harm or increase risk to tangata/whānau.
- Retrospective costs for activities that have already taken place before funding approval.
- International travel (except in very rare circumstances with explicit pre-approval).

8. Eligibility Criteria

7.1 Tangata Whaiora / Whānau

To be eligible, the package must support tangata Māori who:

- Have lived/living experience of hauora hinengaro and/or addiction; and
- Are currently engaged with, referred to, or eligible for primary or secondary MH&A services; and
- Have given consent to participate in the package design, delivery and evaluation; and
- Have whānau/support people included where this is part of their aspirations.

7.2 Providers

Providers must:

- Meet the definition of eligible provider in Section 3.2
- Demonstrate capability to design and deliver kaupapa Māori-aligned cultural packages of care using Ngā Kete e Toru
- Uphold tikanga integrity, cultural safety, and trauma-informed practice
- Have systems to manage funds, support consent/ privacy requirements, and provide reporting.

7.3 Safety and Risk

All applications must demonstrate:

- Clear processes for risk assessment and management (e.g. managing acute distress, safety on cultural journeys, supervision for practitioners).
- Alignment with relevant workplace / organisational policies, codes of conduct and professional standards.
- Confirmation that tangata whaiora remain connected to clinical and crisis pathways where required.

9. Application and Assessment Process

The Fund follows a staged process each round. Dates will be confirmed and published prior to each round opening.

Stage 1 – Promotion & Awareness

- National and regional promotion through TKP and TRO social media, networks, sector newsletters and online hui.
- Online information sessions (e.g. 3 & 4 February 2026) introduce the kaupapa, Ngā Kete e Toru framework and application process.

Stage 2 – Application Submission

- Applications are submitted via the Tahua online portal (or agreed manual pathway where digital access is a barrier).
- Providers apply on behalf of tangata/whānau, attaching a brief outline of co-design conversations and aspirations.

Applications must include:

- Provider and contact details
- Information about tangata/whānau (de-identified where appropriate)
- Description of the package mapped to Ngā Kete e Toru
- Proposed activities, timeline, and practitioners involved
- Budget breakdown (up to \$5,000)
- Risk and safety considerations
- How impact will be captured (including tangata and whānau feedback).

Stage 3 – Eligibility & Triage

- TKP Operations screens applications against eligibility, scope, safety and completeness.
- Applications that do not meet minimum criteria may be declined at this stage, or referred back to providers for clarification.

Stage 4 – Assessment

Eligible applications are assessed by the Selection Panel (see Section 5 of the He Kete policy).

Assessment is based on:

- Alignment with Ngā Kete e Toru and kaupapa Māori values
- Degree of person-led and whānau-centric design
- Potential to strengthen identity, connection, and hauora hinengaro
- Responsiveness to equity, including mana motuhake and access for those most impacted by distress, discrimination or isolation
- Feasibility (realistic budget, timing, workforce)
- Regional balance and overall fund availability.

Stage 5 – Decision & Notification

- TKP Operations collates recommendations and confirms decisions with TRO.
- Providers are notified of outcomes and next steps.
- Where possible, navigators/support will be offered to unsuccessful applicants to refine ideas for future rounds.

Stage 6 – Contracting & Disbursement

- Successful providers enter into a contract or letter of agreement with TRO, outlining deliverables, reporting requirements, and payment schedule.
- Funds are released according to agreed milestones (usually an initial payment on signing, with final payment on receipt of Impact Report).

Stage 7 – Delivery & Impact Reporting

- Providers deliver the package of care in partnership with tangata and whānau.
- On completion, providers submit a He Kete Whaiora Impact Report (template provided) capturing:
 - Activities delivered and participation
 - Outcomes and changes noticed by tangata and whānau
 - Learnings, challenges, and future aspirations
 - Financial accountability.

Acceptance of the Impact Report is mandatory before any repeat application for the same tangata/whānau is considered.

10. Contracting and Reporting Obligations

Providers Agree To:

- Use funds only for the approved package of care.
- Maintain appropriate financial records, receipts and invoices.
- Ensure informed consent, confidentiality and privacy for tangata and whānau.
- Implement risk management and safety plans.
- Provide required mid-point check-ins (if requested) and final Impact Report.
- Participate in kaupapa evaluation activities (e.g. interviews, surveys), with tangata consent.

TKP Operations and Te Rau Ora Agree To:

- Provide clear guidelines, templates and support for applications.
- Administer fair and transparent assessment processes.
- Ensure timely payments once contracts are signed.
- Share high-level findings (de-identified) with the sector to promote learning and advocacy.

TRO reserves the right to request financial records or to withdraw funding if contractual obligations are not met or if serious concerns arise regarding safety or misuse of funds.

11. 2026–2027 Funding Timeline (at a Glance)

Launch & Early Awareness

- Oct–Dec 2025: Early promotion and sector hui.

Round 1 (2026)

- 3 & 4 Feb 2026 – Online information sessions
- 5 Feb 2026 – Applications open
- Early March – Eligibility & triage
- March – Panel assessment and decisions
- Late March/early April – Contracting and first payments
- Apr–Sep – Delivery and reporting.

Round 2 (2026)

- August – Applications open
- Sept–Oct – Triage, assessment and contracting
- Oct 2026–Mar 2027 – Delivery and reporting.

Indicative dates for 2027 will follow a similar pattern (Feb and Aug rounds) and will be confirmed closer to the time.

12. Glossary

Cultural package of care – A tailored set of Māori cultural activities, supports and resources designed with tangata and whānau to strengthen oranga hinengaro, identity and connection.

Hauora hinengaro – Mental, emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Kaupapa Māori provider – Māori-led organisation that delivers services grounded in mātauranga Māori and tikanga.

Ngā Kete e Toru – Three baskets of knowledge (Aronui, Tūāuri, Tūātea) used here as a framework for designing cultural packages of care.

Tangata whaiora / tangata Māori with living realities of hauora hinengaro – Māori people who experience mental distress and/or addiction and are on their own journeys of healing and recovery.

Whānau ora collectives – Groups of providers and organisations working together to deliver whānau-centred services that support holistic wellbeing.

Primary and secondary services (MH&A) – Health services providing mental health and addiction support, including community, NGO and specialist hospital-based services.

13. Contact

For pātai about Ngā Kete Oranga ā Ahurea – Cultural Packages of Care:

Te Kete Pounamu – National Māori Lived/Living Experience Governance Council

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