

Indigenous frameworks and cultural values do matter: Raising Māori and Pasifika student success.

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Understanding and working within indigenous frameworks is the key to raising the success of Māori and Pasifika students within western tertiary institutions. Te Pūtahi Atawhai is a division of Student Academic Services at Victoria University of Wellington.

Te Pūtahi Atawhai supports Māori and Pasifika students in their pursuit of academic goals, by bridging the gap between tertiary expectations and personal cultural expectations. We do this by providing students with holistic individual support packages, fostering Māori and Pasifika learning and teaching communities, and creating a whanau/family who support each other's journey towards academic excellence. Underpinning our success are our key values of *ako* (teaching and learning), *rangatiratanga* (self-direction), *whakanui* (acknowledging success), *whakamana* (respect), *whānungatanga* (building strong networks), *manaakitanga* (hospitality) and *kotahitanga* (unity).

Te Pūtahi Atawhai offers a robust academic undergraduate mentoring programme delivered by a committed team who take responsibility for providing an environment that enhances academic and holistic success for all of our Māori and Pasifika students studying in the Faculties of Commerce, Humanities and Social Sciences, Education and the New Zealand School of Music. Analysis of data has demonstrated a dramatic increase in demand for the mentoring sessions. In 2013 Te Pūtahi Atawhai offered 3518 completed mentoring sessions compared to 2531 in 2012, with an average of 86.5% of those students who participated in four or more mentoring sessions passing their courses. We strongly believe the success of our students is due to the environment we provide, the cultural values we maintain and institutional commitment to indigenous frameworks.

Key Words

Indigenous frameworks

Cultural environment

Māori and Pasifika cultural values

Academic mentoring

Academic Success