TIHEI MAURI ORA
SUPPORTING WHĀNAU THROUGH SUICIDAL DISTRESS

NĀ TŌ ROUROU, NĀ TĀKU ROUROU
KA ORA AI TE IWI
Tapu is the fundamental principle of life and natural law guided by boundaries of respect and safety protected by tikanga Māori and Māori law.

From tapu comes tikanga and from tikanga expresses the idea of kia tika, kia pono, kia mārama. Tika means to be upright, honest and correct. Pono is to believe in the sanctity of life, and Mārama is the importance of knowledge, understanding and enlightenment.

And it is through the application of these principles integrated into the practice and protection of tapu that we are able to make headway through difficult periods and enjoy and uphold the principles of life. Therefore whānau have a responsibility of maintaining the boundaries of tapu that protect life.

*Tuia i runga*
*Tuia i raro*
*Tuia i waho*
*Tuia i roto*
*Tuia i te here tangata*

*That it be woven above*
*As it is below*
*Woven without*
*As it is within*
*Interwoven within the threads of humanity*

Dr Te Huirangi Waikerepuru
This resource is developed with whānau in mind. It is aimed at helping whānau and friends to support someone who is in crisis or distress. This resource gives you information about what to look for and how to help someone who may be feeling suicidal.

A person who is distressed might not ask for help, but that doesn’t mean that help isn’t wanted. Most people who attempt suicide don’t want to die – they just want to stop hurting. Support and connection with whānau, friends and culture can help them to find a way through.

To support someone who is in crisis or distress, it is important to identify the supports or tokotoko they need, and also the support that you need to be a source of strength for them. You might need to be prepared to have difficult conversations and talk about mamae (hurt, pain).

This resource is based on a framework of He Tapu: kia tika, kia pono, kia mārama developed by Dr Te Huirangi Waikerepuru. The framework identifies six key poutoko or principles that emphasise the importance of te tapu o te tangata (the value of human life) and the individual and collective responsibility to protect tapu.

Nō reira e hoa mā, kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui. Keep strong, have courage, commitment and determination to support whānau and friends through difficult times.

**MIHI - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The compilation of this resource has been a collaborative effort involving many people working within the area of Māori suicide prevention. We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who gave their time, effort and support to the development of this resource.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of project lead, **Pania Lee** Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngā Ruahinerangi
TITIRO, WHAKARONGO
PAY ATTENTION
Titiro and whakarongo express the need to take notice, pay attention and be aware of what is going on. A person who is distressed is in a vulnerable state of mind and health. Do what you can to protect and support them.

HE AHA NGĀ TOHU? WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

If someone in your whānau shows one or more of these signs, they need your support. Pay attention to changes in their behaviour and trust your instincts. Some signs may not be obvious.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ngā tino raru taimaha</th>
<th>Ngā tiramaka</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Signs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other Signs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• trying to kill themself</td>
<td>• isolating themself from whānau, family and friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>• hurting themself e.g. cutting skin, taking an overdose</td>
<td>• anger or rage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• telling you they want to die or kill themself</td>
<td>• feeling worthless, guilty or ashamed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• accessing things they could use to hurt themself e.g. rope, gun</td>
<td>• having no hope for the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>• obsession with death</td>
<td>• abusing drugs or alcohol</td>
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KO WAI TE HUNGA WHAKARAERAEE? WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Someone in your whānau may be at higher risk if they have:

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<tr>
<td>• attempted suicide before</td>
<td>• no connection with whānau, friends or community</td>
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<tr>
<td>• been diagnosed with depression, bipolar disorder or another mental illness</td>
<td>• no sense of identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• lost a friend or relative to suicide</td>
<td>• been through a major life change</td>
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<tr>
<td>• been a victim of violence, bullying or sexual abuse</td>
<td>• broken up with their partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>• a court case coming up</td>
<td>• friends or whānau members who don't support their sexuality or identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>• been judged or shamed</td>
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I felt like there was no hope, no point in trying and no one cared. I felt hopeless, useless and no-one loved me. And the easiest way was to end it to stop all that pain and hurt.

26 year old, Māori Female
ĀWHINATIA, MANAAKITIA, KŌREROTAHITIA
TALK & LISTEN WITH COMPASSION

ART BY THERESA REIHANA
NGĀTI HINE
Åwhinatia (helping or assisting) and manaakitia (showing compassion) are important qualities for kōrero tahiitia (listening and talking together). Give your time, words, presence and patience.

ME AHA KOE? 
WHAT DO YOU DO?

In a crisis:
• Stay with them and keep calm
• Let them know you care
• Keep them talking: listen and ask questions without judging
• Remove items that may harm them: medication, razor blades, knives, ropes, guns
• Support them to access professional help (see the inside back cover for a list of people who can support you)
• **In an emergency call 111**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you think someone is at risk</th>
<th>Other things to know</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Invite them to talk with you</td>
<td>• Be gentle and compassionate with them</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Listen, and don’t judge</td>
<td>• Help them feel that there is hope of things getting better – identify things that are positive in their life</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Take them seriously</td>
<td>• Seek support from others including whānau</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ask them directly about their thoughts of suicide (asking will not put the thought in their head)</td>
<td>• Do not agree to keep secrets</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ask them what they are planning – if they have a specific plan, they need help right away</td>
<td>• Let them talk about their thoughts of suicide – avoiding the topic does not help</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help them to find and access the support they need</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Stay with them until they get help</td>
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**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 111**

“…if we are more open about suicide, we’ve got a better chance of dealing with it. If it’s masked and hidden, it’s very hard to deal with”. 
(Mason Durie, 2012)
MAHITAHITIA
WORK TOGETHER

ART BY THERESA REIHANA
NGĀTI HINE
Mahitahitia expresses the value of working together to do things that promote wellness. If you’re supporting someone who is recovering after a crisis, be prepared to be there, offer support and stay involved.

**KŌREROTIA COMMUNICATE**

- Create opportunities to talk or discuss things
- Don’t avoid talking about suicide or the hard things in their life
- Find out what comforts them e.g: karakia, a safe environment, a pet
- If they don’t want to talk with you, ask other people you both trust to support them – friends, family/whānau members, youth workers or others

**WHAKANGAHAU KEEP OCCUPIED**

- Encourage and support them to do what they enjoy
- Be active together (go for a walk, go and see friends, neighbours, family)
- Help them to connect with others and get involved in the community
- Go with them to access support services

**WHAKARANGATIRATIA VALUE THEM**

- Accept them for who they are, and let them know you care
- Tell them they are important
- Support them to make plans, solve problems and achieve their dreams
- Help them access their cultural identity (te reo Māori, marae, whakapapa)

**TE ARA HAUORA WORK TOWARDS WELLNESS**

- Support them to seek treatment for any health problems
- Look at what needs to be strengthened in the person’s life to restore balance. Te Whare Tapa Whā is a way of thinking about this: each side of the wharenui needs to be strong in order to support the others. The four sides are te taha tinana (physical), te taha wairua (spiritual), te taha whānau (family) and te taha hinengaro (mental and emotional).
TIAKI KOE I A KOE ANŌ
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

ART BY THERESA REIHANA
NGĀTI HINE
Tiaki koe i a koe anō highlights the need to take care of yourself when you are caring for others and the importance of connection – to yourself and with others who can support you.

**TE TAUTOKO TŪRORO KIA ORA**
**SUPPORTING SOMEONE TO WELLNESS?**

- It’s important for you to look after yourself
- Make sure you’re getting enough sleep, eating properly and relaxing
- By looking after yourself you will be able to help the other person
- Take time for yourself and do the things you enjoy
- Know that you can’t do everything and it’s okay to ask for help
- It’s important to involve whānau and friends to support each other – don’t try to do everything yourself

**TE MĀHARAHARA KI NGĀ RA Ō ANAMATA**
**FEELING HOPELESS ABOUT THE FUTURE?**

- It’s important for you to talk to someone
- Surround yourself with people you trust
- It’s okay to ask for help – you don’t have to cope alone
- Be gentle on yourself
KEI A KOE TONU TE RONGOĀ
WHĀNAU HAVE SOLUTIONS

ART BY THERESA REIHANA
NGĀTI HINE
Kei a koe tonu te Rongoā highlights that there are solutions within every whānau. Learning together and strengthening whānau connections is central to healing, growing and developing the ability of whānau to look after each other.

MŌKORI KIA MAHI TAHI TE WHĀNAU KI TE ĀWHINA TŪRORO
WHĀNAU CAN WORK TOGETHER TO HELP SOMEONE IN DISTRESS:

• Talk to whānau leaders and bring the whānau together
• Have a whānau hui in a safe space
• Ask the whānau member at risk to tell you what they need and what works for them
• Talk openly and honestly about the situation
• Develop a whānau plan to work together to support the person at risk

PĒNĀ KO KOE E ĀWHINA ANA I TŌ WHĀNAU
IF YOU’RE SUPPORTING YOUR WHĀNAU:

• Identify whānau strengths, look at the issues and think about solutions
• Look for wisdom and skills within your whānau – everyone has something to offer
• Identify services to support the whānau
• Set goals together, create a whānau plan, keep it fresh
• Every day is different, take one day at a time

“…we all have a role to play in whakapapa preservation and protection, to ensuring the continuity of our people. […] The revolution really does begin at home”. (Keri Lawson-Te Aho, 2013)
HEI ĀWHINA, HEI TAUTOKO
ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR WHĀNAU

ART BY THERESA REIHANA
NGĀTI HINE
**Talk to your:** partner, parent, friend, whānau or family, kaumātua, teacher, school counsellor, family doctor, community leader, or church leader.

**Find information or support from your:** local Māori health provider, Whānau Ora provider, Kia Piki te Ora coordinator, marae, hapū, iwi, kaumātua council, church, police, or mental health crisis team.

### NATIONAL HELP SERVICES | CONTACT
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Need to talk? 1737 | Free text or call 1737
Lifeline | 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)
Samaritans | 0800 726 666
Youthline | 0800 376 633 or free TXT 234
The Lowdown – youth depression | thelowdown.co.nz or free TXT 5626
SPARX online support for youth | sparx.org.nz
Depression helpline | 0800 111 757 – depression.org.nz
Alcohol and drug helpline | 0800 787 797 or free TXT 8681
OUTLine – sexuality & gender | 0800 688 5463 (0800 OUTLINE)
Rainbow Youth – sexuality & gender support for young people | rainbowyouth.org.nz
Women’s Refuge | 0800 733 843 (0800 REFUGE) – womensrefuge.org.nz
Mental Health Foundation | mentalhealth.org.nz
Nā tō rourou, nā tāku rourou
Ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food basket
the people will thrive

TITIRO, WHAKARONGO
Pay attention

ĀWHINATIA, MANAAKITIA, KŌREROTAHITIA
Talk & listen with compassion

MAHITAHITIA
Work together

TI AKI KOE I A KOE ANŌ
Take care of yourself

KEI A KOE TONU TE RONGOĀ
Whānau have solutions

HEI AWHINA, HEI TAUTOKO
Assistance & support is available for whānau

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