



An introduction to:
Tikanga Māori

What is Tikanga Māori?



What is Tikanga Māori?

- **Māori Dictionary** – (noun) correct procedure, custom, habit, lore, method, manner, rule, way, code, meaning, plan, practice, convention, protocol - the customary system of values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context.
- **Sir Hirini Moko Mead** – Tikanga are tools of thought and understanding. They are packages of ideas which help to organise behaviour and provide some predictability in how certain activities are carried out...They help us to differentiate between right and wrong and in this sense have built-in ethical rules that must be observed.
- **Sir Eddie Durie** – the values, standards, principles or norms to which the Māori community generally subscribed for the determination of appropriate conduct.
- **Dr Anaha Hiini** – the appropriate protocols and customs to be used in particular situations.
- **Law Commission** – the body of rules developed by Māori to govern themselves.



What is Tikanga Māori?

- Tika = the 'right/correct/moral/ethical/just' thing to do **e.g. manuhiri eat first.**
- The Māori system of law including its protocols, customs, traditions, policies, processes, procedures, behaviours, actions, laws, rules, guidelines, regulations, conventions, norms, etc.etc. **e.g. pōhiri to welcome manuhiri.**
- What we do and how we do it; the Māori way of life **e.g. hongi to meet and greet.**
- Collective vs individual **e.g. the burial place of the deceased.**



What is Tikanga Māori?

- Tikanga are underpinned by certain values and principles (iho matua/atua) **e.g. the relationship between rāhui and tapu.**
- Tikanga can vary from iwi/hapū/whānau/marae **e.g. tauutuutu vs pāeke.**
- Tikanga have a relationship with language, culture, and spirituality **e.g. karakia before hui.**
- Unwritten vs written **e.g. Te Kawa o Te Arawa.**

What is Tikanga Māori?

- Tikanga promote health and safety and are based on common sense **e.g. not sitting on food tables.**
- Tikanga promote convenience and efficiency **e.g. food gathering in accordance with the maramataka:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehG7mmm_vKI.
- Tikanga include rules and penalties **e.g. father/son speaking rights.**



Tikanga Values & Principles

Tapu

Noa

Mana

Manaakitanga

Mauri

Wairua

Kaitiakitanga

Utu

Whakapapa

Whakawhanaungatanga Rangatiratanga

Who Determines Tikanga Māori?

- Ngā atua (kawa) me ngā tūpuna.
- Tāngata Māori.
- Tāngata Whenua.
- Haukāinga / Mana Whenua.
- Ahikāroa.



Who Determines Tikanga Māori?

- The relevant collective.
- Iwi.
- Hapū.
- Marae.
- Whānau.



Who Determines Tikanga Māori?

- Leaders with knowledge, skill, experience and expertise in Te Ao Māori.
- “*He kano hi kitea*”.
- Ariki.
- Rangatira.
- Kaumātua.
- Tohunga.



Evolution of Tikanga Māori

- “*Huri te ao, huri hoki ngā tikanga*”...“*Me whati te tikanga e ora ai te tikanga*” – degree of flexibility **e.g. evolution of kawē mate.**
- Tikanga allows for compromise and solutions that benefit all parties. It’s not always about right and wrong, or winning and losing **e.g. hui to settle overlapping claims.**
- At times, tikanga is more about following the right process rather than achieving the desired outcome **e.g. tōno tūpāpaku.**
- Tikanga are based on traditional precedents, but can be adapted, changed, or set aside to suit contemporary circumstances **e.g. COVID-19 and tangihanga.**
- Decisions to change or cancel tikanga are not made lightly and require hui by the relevant collective to consider, discuss, debate, and reach agreement **e.g. Moana Jackson’s ōhāki.**



Tono/Kāhaki Tūpāpaku Example

- Tūpāpaku were traditionally stored or buried within their tribal lands next to their people.
- The tūpāpaku's whānau/hapū/iwi would decide where the tūpāpaku is buried.
- The tūpāpaku may share their wishes before they die (ōhāki), but ultimately the decision around burial place remains with their collective.
- Other groups may 'tono' for the tūpāpaku. This usually results in discussion, debate, and negotiation between the parties. Sometimes the parties reach agreement on the burial place.
- Sometimes agreement is not reached, or a tono is not made, and the tūpāpaku is 'snatched' by the other party (hiki/kāhaki tūpāpaku) and buried elsewhere.
- The orthodox legal position is that the personal representative (executor or potential administrator) has both the right and the duty to attend to the disposal of the deceased's body.
- **Examples: Prince Tui Teka, James Takamore.**





Aperahama Hurihanganui
027 247 1960

aperahama@engaging-well.com
www.engaging-well.com

Instagram: engaging_well_ltd

