



DANCE AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

www.danz.org.nz

INTRODUCTORY DANCE VOCABULARY – TE REO MĀORI

Movement	Kori te tinana (body movement) / Kori (to move, wriggle, play)
Performance	Haka / Purei (play, perform) / Mahi (work)
Perform (to do a dance)	Mahia te kanikani
Choreography	Nekenekehanga/ Tito nekehanga
Choreograph (to make a dance)	Mahia te nekehanga
Assessment (exam/test)	Aromatawai
Costume (special clothes to dance in)	Kahu/Kākahu
Stage	Atamira
Dance motif	Waitohu kanikani
Facial expression	Tā te kanohi

Supporting Dance in Aotearoa



DANCE AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

www.danz.org.nz

Focus (where your eyes look when you dance)	Arotahi
Audience (people watching you dance)	Kaimātakitaki
Production technologies (music, stage, costume, lighting)	Hangarau whakaaturanga
Music	Puoro
Sound / Sound accompaniment	Oro (sound) / Oro tautoko (sound accompaniment)
Stage set	Āhuatanga atamira
Backdrop	Tuarongo
Stage lighting	Rama atamira
Choreographic intention	Kaupapa nekehanga
Stimulus / Stimuli	Whakaoho
Inspiration	Whakamanawa (to inspire), Ngākaunui (inspiring)

Supporting Dance in Aotearoa



DANCE AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

www.danz.org.nz

Theme	Kaupapa
Body base (the part of your body that is on the floor e.g. elbows, knees, feet)	Tumu ā-tinana
Levels	Kōeke
Projection	Ihi (power) / Wana (excite, thrill)

Supporting Dance in Aotearoa