Aka atu ōku whatu ki te manuhaea, e pōkaitia ana e kā kupu ā ōna tīpuna: Raise my eyes to the torn bird, encircled by the words of her ancestors

Dr Hana O'Regan, General Manager, Oranga for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Christchurch, New Zealand (Christchurch, New Zealand)

How many of our people have had control over their own personal and cultural narratives as Māori and as Māori learners as they have travelled along their educational pathways? How many of us have successfully been able to influence the views of those around us with regards to the value of our language and culture and our ability to achieve educational success as Māori? As educators and educational leaders, what tools have we had at our disposal to grow the capability of our sector to support the development of positive dispositions of the Māori learner?

The title for this kōrero is taken from the opening line of a waiata I composed at 21 in my first year of lecturing at the University of Otago. The second line of the waiata refers to the narratives etched into the pari karakaraka – the echoing cliffs, and draws on the challenges of identity and indigenous narrative in a world that is deafened to them. The theme of the conference, understandably resonated with me as I reflected on my own time as a student and then young lecturer as I sought to carve my own path within the academic world as a young Māori woman. My experiences, both as a student and as an educator, and later as a mother, have led me to a lifetime of commitment to building a new narrative for Māori success in education and society.

The battle to achieve equity of treatment, consideration and respect as Māori learners has been an intergenerational one – and it is still ever present. The challenge we face today is the need to create a new environment and associated expectations that will help to transform our stories of ourselves, for ourselves, our whānau and our communities. This presentation will look to support teachers and whānau to review and reclaim the story we tell as we develop the right tools that will enable our tamariki to be in control of their own narrative.

Presenter
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Dr Hana O'Regan (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) is the General Manager of Oranga/ Wellbeing for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Hana’s career has been largely focused on the areas of Māori language revitalisation and Māori educational achievement whilst also being an active advocate and driver for her own tribal language revitalisation strategy within Kāi Tahu.

Hana has previously held the position of lecturer at the University of Otago and management positions in the Māori Language Unit of Ngāi Tahu, The Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, CPIT. Hana is also currently a New Zealand Fellow on the International Centre for Language Revitalisation, ICLR and a member of Ngā Kaituhono.

A proud mother of two children, Hana is committed to te reo in the home and intergenerational transmission of the language.