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Report 02.697

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Report to Ara Tahi
from Jo Campbell, Environmental Education Co-ordinator

Update on the Take Action for Water Schools programme

1. Purpose

To update members of Ara Tahi about the Learnwell/*Take Action* for Water environmental education programme for schools.

2. Background

A presentation was made to Ara Tahi on 5 April 2000 about Learnwell, the environmental education programme for primary and intermediate schools being developed by the Council. Consultation was subsequently undertaken with almost all Iwi representatives from Ara Tahi to discuss the project in more detail and identify how the programme could best address the needs of tangata whenua.

Subsequently Learnwell has been developed and renamed, *Take Action* for Water. The programme was piloted in 2001 and has now been running for almost a full year.

3. Discussion

The main wish expressed by members of Ara Tahi during consultation was to ensure that the programme be accessible for students in kura kaupapa Māori and full immersion classes in mainstream schools. The lack of a version in te reo of the *Take Action* resource book was identified as a barrier to this occurring.

As a result, we have had translated the central parts of the resource material (the student worksheets, leaflets and posters) into te reo. These will be piloted with an immersion class at Pukeatua School in Term 2 of 2003. From there, the programme will be offered to at least one kura kaupapa Māori per year (there are six kura in the Region).

Another opportunity identified by Ara Tahi members was for individual Iwi to be involved in the delivery of the programme. To facilitate this, the project has recently developed a partnership between Pukeatua School, Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ke te Upoko o te Ika and Greater Wellington – The Regional Council to establish a pa harakeke at the Wainuiomata Recreation Area. The harakeke will be used by members of the weavers collective at Waiwhetu Marae and will be cared for by students at Pukeatua School and Greater Wellington. Other schools will also be using the Wainuiomata area to do the *Take Action* programme, and will have the opportunity to learn about the harakeke and its importance to Māori.

It is our hope and expectation that we will be able to carry on this way of working with other Iwi and local kura as we implement *Take Action*.

4. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Ara Tahi:

- (1) *receive the report; and*
- (2) *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for Submission

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