

The Logo



The wavy lines at the base of the model come from the New Zealand Ministry of Education's logo where they represent the waterways of our island nation and the life blood of Aotearoa New Zealand. In this model they show the Ministry's funding and support of the project.

The zig zag lines at the top come from the Maori symbol for the 'niho taniwha' or teeth of the taniwha. 'Niho taniwha' make metaphoric references to relationship, guardianship and leadership. The zig zag lines in this model represent the role of the University of Waikato and the participation of researchers from this institution who worked in partnership with researchers from the MoE, GSE, Poutama Pounamu research centre. The symbol of concentric circles in the centre represents Maori students and their families and their central place in this project.

The innermost circle represents the students themselves within their whanau (family, second circle), hapu (sub-tribe, third circle), their iwi (tribe, fourth circle) and their culture provided by the remaining overlay of circles.

On either side is a double spiral. The centre of the double spiral is understood to represent the interconnectedness of passive and active elements from whence change can be generated.

The double spiral to the left represents Maori educators, while the double spiral to the right represents non-Maori educators. Reading from left to right it can also be noted that this research was by Maori, for Maori and for non-Maori. Graphically the waves and the niho taniwha placed on either side of the learning contexts suggest that research informs practice and practice informs research, and that this process is iterative and ongoing.