

## How Kaupapa Māori and Pūrākau methodologies guided a scholarly journey

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Disparity between Māori and non-Māori is evident when comparing mainstream tertiary qualification outcomes in Aotearoa. The Certificate in Fitness programme delivered by Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology in Tauranga is a programme that has demonstrated consistent qualification success for Māori since 2002. Statistics illustrate positive qualification outcomes for Māori students who parallel non-Māori in graduating with the level four certificate. A PhD candidate of Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiāraangi, endeavoured to learn and share what is was in this programme that provided the outcomes it did for Māori. What aspects of practice, pedagogy or other may be shared and applied by adult educators within the ITP environment to improve qualification outcomes for Māori? How can teachers and teaching do better for Māori students in mainstream tertiary? Built around Kaupapa Māori and Pūrākau methodologies and values this project drew on advice from Māori graduates over a nine-year timeframe of the Cert4fitness programme. This research project was co-designed by, with, and for Māori students of this programme. Embedded within the Kaupapa Māori framework is a Pūrākau methodology. This approach offered a chance to listen, learn and share concepts told by graduates in their own ways and in their own words. From a metaphorical and metaphysical perspective, this project has been guided by the stars. Traditionally, stars provided direction and influenced life in important undertakings such as navigating, planting, and harvesting. In this story the stars are the Māori graduates of the Cert4fitness programme. This presentation will concentrate on sharing research design scaffolded upon a Kaupapa Māori and Pūrākau foundation.