

## ★ Why don't we?

Andrew Tui is a New Zealand born practitioner of Samoan and Chinese heritage. He is part of an initiative to address concerns and questions that stop Māori and Pasifika joining a professional association.



Six years ago when I worked at Careers New Zealand (then known as Career Services) I met and worked alongside two amazing career practitioners, Fiona Timoti-Knowles and Huia Murupaenga. Even though we ended up working in different organisations, we remained in touch. In the past year especially we have met regularly for dinner and a catch-up.

The kōrero (conversation) around the dinner table was and is indescribable, but I'll try ... we listen, we reflect, we critique, we question, we eat, but best of all, we laugh!

Beneath the humour, is an overwhelming sense of pride and respect that we have for one another.



Huia, Fiona and Andrew

Just before Christmas 2015, we had dinner at *Szimpla*. Fiona takes up the story.

*We talked about what's going on in our communities ... the social issues ... pressures facing families ... stressful times. The talk soon turned to career development ... the difference it makes to making informed career decisions ... that has the potential to translate to higher paying opportunities for whānau/aiga. Then we asked ourselves ... "What are **we** doing for our industry (apart from working in it)?" For a few moments our hearts spoke out loud ... louder than the outside world – especially the naysayers ... and we connected with our inner human being.*



We talked animatedly about the issues and challenges surrounding the career development of Māori and Pasifika peoples.

Energy levels soaring, we all agreed that we needed to do something.

Consumed with excitement ... a **CALL TO ACTION** became our mantra.



hands. An open and frank discussion took place which concluded with a call for more networking opportunities.

### **Moving forward ...**

Since the Hui Fono in July, the seed has been planted for the Māori and Pasifika Career Practitioners to host a Symposium at the end of 2016.

On reflection ... the CALL TO ACTION has been answered!



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Editor's note:

This article builds on Andrew Tui's blog post of 13 July 2016: <https://coffeecareerchat.wordpress.com/2016/07/13/its-cool-to-korero/>