

★ Ana Hau: A Day in the Life

Ana Hau's parents advised her "there are two worlds, walk between them, maximise the benefits of both." In a recent interview, Ana described her varied career and her work at the present time to support young people with their career development.

Kia ora Ana. Please describe your career path up to the present.

I am Ana Hau, from Ngāpuhi and Te Rarawa. I work as an Education to Employment Advisor at Careers New Zealand and a project manager for Industry Focused secondary schools, with a particular if not exclusive focus on Māori and Pasifika.

I am a product of Kohanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori, Māori Boarding School and State schools, in Northland and Auckland. I started working when I was 11, performing kapa haka.

After school I went to the Auckland College of Education and studied for a B.Ed Teaching, Te Huarahi Māori. I discovered that my true passion was fashion so after I graduated from ACE at age 20, I carried on studying at AUT for a B.A. in Fashion Design, where I was awarded a scholarship to study abroad in Toronto, Canada.

I established my fashion label "anahau" while still a student, on account of the interest in Māori influenced design. I was also able to combine my teaching and fashion degrees by teaching fashion, Te Reo Māori and food technology at Northcote College.

Teaching and managing a business was a big workload and I knew I needed to make a decision. In 2009 I resigned from teaching to concentrate on my fashion label. I struggled for two years looking for an investor, but my family supported me. Overall my 10 years in the fashion industry were blessed with amazing opportunities. In 2010 I won an award at the Miromoda Indigenous Designs and showcased at the New Zealand Fashion week.

Business was tough and it was time to move on so I started working as a case manager at Work and Income. I completed an emerging leadership programme Te Ara Tiatia, and from there moved easily into my present role at Careers New Zealand.

Reflecting on your career journey to date, what are your thoughts on career development?

It doesn't always end up how you planned! My career journey is very random. Now I can say it's about your lifelong journey, the multiple roles you play, and the process of how you manage those roles.

As a teacher I was aware of career education and career services and I think we did careers work naturally with our students. Now that I'm much more involved in careers, I can see that there has been an increase in career services for Māori. Rangatahi are informed at a younger age and offered experiences to stimulate their thinking. The message is more relevant to Māori. There are more Māori role models telling their stories.



It's nice to be back working with rangatahi. I am in a place where I can feed back, share, be a role model, and shape the work with young people. It was such a welcoming feeling to come into an organisation focused on cultural competencies and Māori cultural values.

What are some characteristics of Māori cultural competencies?

My parents told me “there are two worlds, walk between them, maximise the benefits of both.” In terms of communication and approach, we use lots of creativity; we use our senses – feeling, seeing, listening. We ensure that the message we give is tika - honest, pono – appropriate, and we deliver it with aroha.

We are guided by our own tikanga in Te Ao Māori, that holistic view. I suppose you could call it intuition.

How do you work with stakeholders and what do they find most useful? What products and services do you promote?

I'm a connector between schools and employers. I show rangatahi different career pathways they may take to get into specific areas of work.

At Careers New Zealand we work collaboratively with employers and industry to create an Industry Focussed Event for schools. We bring students and their influencers (teachers and whānau) together with employers and industry reps, to expose them to the industry and the various career pathways.

Everyone involved finds the networking and relationships very useful. Meanwhile we promote products and services to help people make sense of what they are experiencing. We update whānau on what's happening in the world of work and talk to them about career management competencies, what they are and how to develop them. We promote our website and Professional Development workshops for career influencers.

What are you proud of in your careers work?

At Careers New Zealand I'm part of a group working together to implement Industry Focussed Events throughout Aotearoa. Our aim is to connect schools with employers from a specific industry. This kaupapa gives rangatahi inspiration and insights into the real world of work. I've also been helping to make some bi-lingual resources for our staff. This is a chance to contextualise Te Reo Māori into our everyday work using digital technology, the same way that many young people learn.



[Ana Hau – Ngāpuhi & Te Rarawa – Advisor, Initiatives, Education to Employment – Careers New Zealand](#)

Bi-lingual dictionary

Ngāpuhi – a collective name for tribes in regions of the Hokianga, Bay of Islands and Whāngārei.

Te Rarawa – a tribe from the Far North of New Zealand

Pasifika – collective term for peoples from the South Pacific region now living in New Zealand

kohanga reo - pre-school based on Māori language and culture

kura kaupapa Māori – Māori language immersion school

kapa haka – Māori performing arts

te huarahi Māori – a method of Māori medium teacher training

te reo Māori – Māori language

rangatahi - youth

tika – true, authentic, right, correct

pono – factual, appropriate

aroha – love, compassion

tikanga – convention, code, meaning

te ao Māori – the Maori world or realm

wairua – spirit, soul, attitude

kaupapa – plan, set of principles