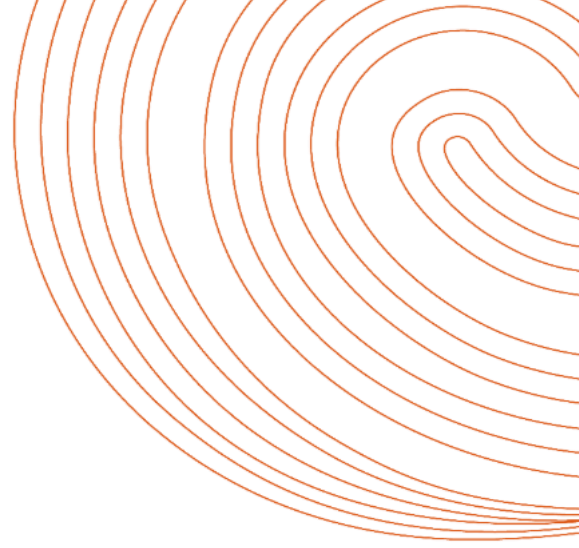




Request for Proposals (RFP)

TMP Mōhiohio – Factual Content | News and Current Affairs

Whakaata Māori is seeking proposals for high-quality reo Māori content that informs, connects, and strengthens audiences through factual storytelling and current affairs journalism.

Through the Mōhiohio funding round, we are prioritising projects that reflect te ao Māori, contribute meaningfully to language revitalisation, and deliver strong audience impact across our platforms.

Background

Whakaata Māori champions Māori storytelling that connects audiences to te reo Māori me ngā tikanga Māori through compelling, high-quality content.

Our platforms Whakaata Māori, MĀORI+, Te Ao Māori News, along with our strong social channels provides Aotearoa's most significant indigenous content ecosystems for Māori storytelling, reaching millions of viewers across broadcast, streaming and social media.

We are committed to investing in content that -

- Reflects authentic Māori perspectives
- Strengthens identity and belonging
- Supports the normalisation and growth of te reo Māori

Project Overview

This funding round is focused on factual reo Māori storytelling and journalism that inform, connect and engage audiences across Aotearoa.

We are seeking proposals for two key content areas -

1. Ngā Kaupapa Pono | Factual Content

High-quality factual projects that:

- Are grounded in authentic Māori experiences, perspectives and lived realities.
- Provide deep and emotive insight into Māori perspectives, issues and lived experiences
- Provide insight into tikanga Māori, values, histories, communities and contemporary experiences
- Use documentary, docuseries and factual storytelling to make to connect audiences to te ao Māori in meaningful and accessible ways

2. Ngā Rongo o te Wā | News and Current Affairs

Journalism and current affairs content that -

- Reflect Māori voices, stories and kaupapa
- Demonstrate strong editorial judgement and news values
- Contribute to a connected and collaborative reo Māori news ecosystem

Funding Overview

A total of \$8 million is available in this round:

Ngā Kaupapa Pono | Factual Content

- Up to \$5 million available
- Documentary, docuseries and factual formats (excluding news and current affairs)
- Projects should connect issues to human experience and provide insight into Māori perspectives

Ngā Rongo o te Wā | News and Current Affairs

- Up to \$3 million available
- Reo Māori journalism and current affairs content
- Projects should support a connected and sustainable news ecosystem, balancing regional voices with national reach

Te Huapae o Te Rangi – Whakaata Māori Audience Outcomes

Te Huapae o Te Rangi helps us understand the impact our content has on audiences and ensures the stories we invest in contribute to meaningful cultural, language and identity outcomes.

We expect all projects to contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Stronger connection to te ao Māori
- Active Learners of reo Māori feel supported and grow proficiency
- Strengthened Māori identity and belonging
- Hāpori and Iwi are empowered as content upholds mana Māori
- Greater understanding of Māori perspectives for all audiences

We encourage applicants to consider how their project will contribute to these outcomes through compelling storytelling and authentic Māori perspectives.

Content Priorities

Factual Content

We are looking for:

- High impact and quality documentaries and factual series – strong content utility for digital, social and TV
- Strong storytelling grounded in te ao Māori
- Content where te reo Māori flows naturally and authentically

News & Current Affairs

We are seeking:

- Journalism that reflects Māori voices and kaupapa
- Strong editorial strategy and news values
- Content that contributes to a coordinated Māori news ecosystem
- Clear collaboration and platform delivery approach

Proposal Requirements

All proposals must include:

- Creative / Content Approach (or Editorial Strategy for news)
- Te Reo Māori Plan (Rautaki Reo)
- Audience Strategy
- Schedule and Budget
- Applicant and Key Personnel

Proposals should demonstrate:

- Production readiness
- Strong platform alignment
- Clear pathway to audience

Key Dates

- RFP Published / Round Opens: Thu 4 June 2026
- Info Session: Tue 16 June 2026
- Proposal Enquiries Deadline: Thu 9 July 2026
- Proposal Discussions Completed: Thu 23 July 2026
- Final Deadline: Thu 27 August 2026
- Decisions Notified: Fri 30 October 2026

Key Dates

WM Full Proposal portal opens	Mon 22 June 2026
Full proposal portal closes	Fri 14 August 2026
WM Outcomes	Tues 25 August 2026
Funder Deadline	Thu 27 August 2026
Funder Outcomes	Fri 30 October 2026

Contact & Support

All proposals must be submitted through the Whakaata Māori proposal portal, Te Kauhanga.

Whakaata Māori thanks all applicants for their commitment to sharing authentic Māori stories and supporting the revitalisation of te reo me ngā Tikanga Māori.

If you do not receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received, please contact our Content Coordinator.

For further information and submission guidelines, contact: Commissioning Content and Delivery Coordinator Moesha McRae

