

TE HOHOURONGO – *Conflict resolution – To seek peace*

The hohourongo is an ancestral conflict resolution. It is an indigenous practice that utilises ancestral genealogical ties to exemplary ancestors who have left a clear pathway to physical and spiritual well-being.

Used specifically to address both mental health paralleled with co-existing conditions. It basically weaves a clinical and cultural whāriki (*fabric*) to healing the spirit, mind and body of the whanau (*family*).

Acquisition of this knowledge helps whanau (*family*) to address the violation of tapu (*sacred state*) and enhance and restore tapu (*sacredness*) to its optimal potential.

Tikanga of Hohourongo offers traditional knowledge as a means of healing our wounded spirits and empowering our whanau to resolve conflict.

It is important to note that the 'houhourongo' practice may be used for both students and staff. To implement 'hohourongo' it is important to note that the following protocols are fully understood.

- It is appropriate for the 'houhourongo' process if implemented, to proceed any formal complaint process or HR process.
- The two people, parties, or groups in question, must agree to participate before 'hohourongo' can proceed.
- Facilitator of the 'hohourongo' process is not a Judge, nor Jury, but has the important role of setting the scene.
- Opens the proceedings with a Karakia – prayer.
- Sets the ground rules for the process.
- Everyone is asked to respect the wharenuī, the space, or the room
- One side speaks first, with no interruptions from the other side
- The other side, are then given the opportunity to speak.
- There is no time limit
- Once sharing is completed, the facilitator then thanks the respective groups, before closing the session with a karakia.
- If successful there will be the 'hariru'- *shaking of hands*, the 'hongī' -*pressing of noses*, the 'awhi' – *embrace*, the 'tangi'- *tears*, or the 'waiata' – *song*. In some instances a 'hīmene' – hymn is sung.

More information

Please contact Unitec's Pae Arahi, Marae team or Kaiāwhina for further information