

# Expressions of whānau

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A relational model of whakapapa whānau (see below) was developed as part of an analysis of data from the first Māori Social Survey (Te Kupenga) 2013 examining expressions of whānau<sup>1</sup>.

Whakapapa provides the links between the vertical and horizontal aspects of whānau through hapū and iwi relationships. Whakapapa relationships are not just ways of situating individuals within a kin group but are connected to roles, responsibilities and obligations, including mutual acts of giving and receiving. The term 'whāngai' refers to those who are adopted (usually informally) into whānau.

## About At a Glance

Superu's *At a Glance* series uses infographics to illustrate research findings or key information about a priority topic.



Whenua: land, also placenta  
 Tūpuna: ancestor  
 Koroua: grandfather, elderly man  
 Kuia: grandmother, elderly woman

Matua: Father  
 Whaea: mother  
 Mātāmua: first-born, elder  
 Tuakana: elder brother of male, elder sister of female

Au/ahau: I, me  
 Hoa rangatira: spouse, partner  
 Teina: younger brother of a male, younger sister of a female  
 Pōtiki: youngest child

Tamariki: children  
 Whāngai: adopted child  
 Mokopuna: grandchild/ren, great grandchild/ren  
 Uri: descendant, offspring

Some Māori may see whānau in a traditional sense as encompassing an extended set of kin relationships, while others might think of whānau in the narrow sense of a nuclear family. Regardless of scope, these relationships are still grounded in the foundations of whakapapa.

<sup>1</sup> Kukutai, T., Sporle, A., & Roskrug, M. (2016). 'Expressions of whānau'. *Families and Whānau Status Report 2016* (pp. 51-77). Superu, Wellington.

The expression of whānau project is part of a broader Whānau Wellbeing research programme. The conceptual basis for this programme is Superu's Whānau Rangatiratanga Conceptual Framework.

**The Whānau Rangatiratanga Conceptual Framework** has drawn on capability dimensions and whānau rangatiratanga (whānau empowerment) principles to measure and understand outcomes of whānau wellbeing. The framework provides a Māori lens to view trends in whānau wellbeing over time. Inside the framework there are also 'areas of interest' or 'factors' that contribute to or influence whānau wellbeing.



### Related publications:



Subjective whānau wellbeing in Te Kupenga Report (April 2017)



The Whānau Rangatiratanga Frameworks: Approaching whānau wellbeing from within Te Ao Māori research report (December 2016)