



Ka Whati Te Tai: a generation disrupted is the latest in a series of Māori Futures reports produced by the Ngāi Tahu initiative Tokona Te Raki: Māori Futures Collective in partnership with leading business and economic research consultancy BERL. Focusing on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on Māori, the report explores the challenges and opportunities for Māori in the new work order.

“The reality of this pandemic is that the economic impacts of COVID-19 will almost certainly be far worse and more lasting than the health impacts,” says Hillmare Schulze, Chief Economist at BERL. “We estimate that around half of the Māori workforce are employed in industries which will be directly impacted by the response to COVID-19.”

The report shows Māori are over-represented in industries vulnerable to economic shocks and under-represented in future growth sectors that offer higher incomes and security.

‘Historic policy decisions by successive governments have channeled Māori towards blue-collar careers where we are vulnerable to future change. This leaves Māori last on for any economic boom and first off for any economic bust. We need to use this opportunity to transform our approach to education so our rangatahi are future-ready and able to thrive in an ever changing world’, says Eruera Tarena, Executive Director for Tokona te Raki.

The report identifies future skills that can support rangatahi and their whānau to transition to the new economy and be ready to adapt and thrive in the future.

‘Rangatahi need skills for the future, not the past. A greater focus on future skills like collaboration, problem solving, creativity and teamwork leverages our cultural strengths as Māori and opens up new pathways to the high-pay jobs of the future. These help us to build resilience so we can adapt to change, rather than being the victims of it. With the right approach, we can emerge stronger than before and shape the future, not just survive it.’