



The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study



Support for Te Reo Māori in Aotearoa, 2015

Revitalisation and normalisation of the use of Te Reo Māori has been an important development for Māori in Aotearoa (New Zealand). Full immersion and bilingual classes at primary school are established throughout the country and Te Reo courses are also encouraged. At international sports events like the Rugby World Cup and at special occasions like ANZAC day, the New Zealand national anthem is often sung in both Māori and English. Although Māori is recognised as an official language of NZ, varying support for the use of Te Reo Māori is apparent amongst New Zealanders.

In 2015, the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) asked 15,821 adult New Zealanders to rate how strongly they opposed or supported the use of Māori language in two settings. These were:

1. *Teaching Māori language in New Zealand primary schools.*
2. *Singing the national anthem in Māori and English.*

The self-reported ratings were on a Likert type scale and ranged from 1 (strongly oppose) to 7 (strongly support). We have identified participants who reported their support as 1 or 2 as being "Opposed", those who reported 3, 4 or 5 as "Neutral", and those who reported 6 or 7 as "Supportive."

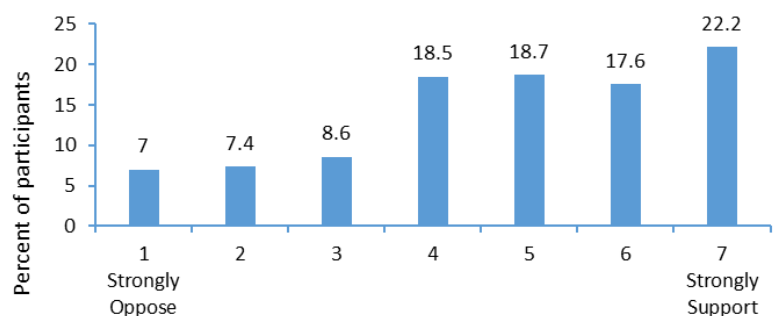
DO NEW ZEALANDERS SUPPORT TEACHING MĀORI LANGUAGE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS?

From 15,538 adult New Zealanders who rated their support for teaching Māori language in NZ primary schools, the average level of support was 4.8 out of 7.

Please rate how strongly you oppose or support teaching Māori language in New Zealand primary schools

Opposed		Neutral			Supportive	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

We document the distribution of opposition or support for *teaching Māori language in New Zealand primary schools* using data from the 2014/2015 wave of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (N = 15,538). Just under half (46%) of respondents were neither supportive nor opposed to teaching Māori language in NZ primary schools, only 14% were opposed and 40% were supportive.

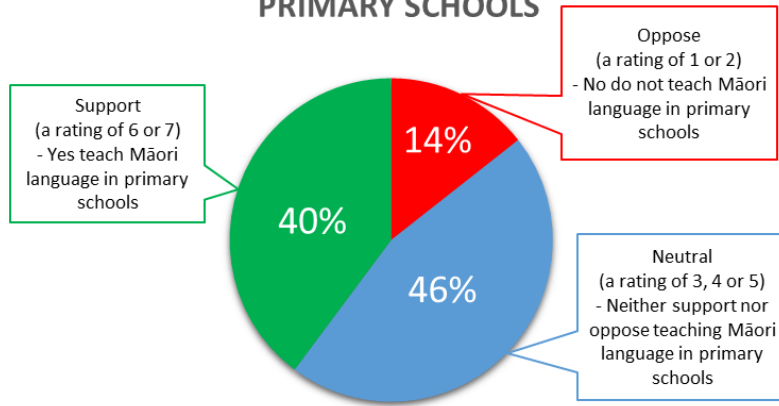


Participants' rating of opposition or support for teaching Māori language in New Zealand primary schools. (1 = Strongly Oppose, 7 = Strongly Support)

This suggests that most New Zealanders are either on the fence about teaching Māori language in NZ primary schools, or supportive of it. Only a very small number think Te Reo Māori should not be taught in schools.



TEACHING MĀORI LANGUAGE IN NZ PRIMARY SCHOOLS



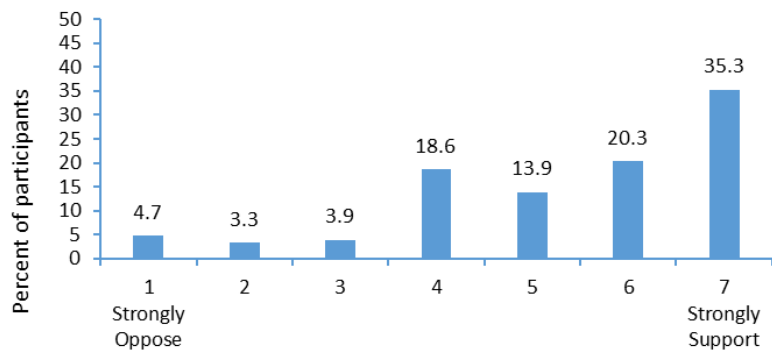
"...most New Zealanders are either on the fence about teaching Māori language in NZ primary schools, or supportive of it. Only a very small number think Te Reo Māori should not be taught in schools."

DO NEW ZEALANDERS SUPPORT SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN MĀORI AND ENGLISH?

From 15,515 adult New Zealanders who rated their support for singing the national anthem in Māori and English, the average level of support was slightly high at 5.4 out of 7.

Please rate how strongly you oppose or support singing the national anthem in Māori and English.

Opposed		Neutral			Supportive	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

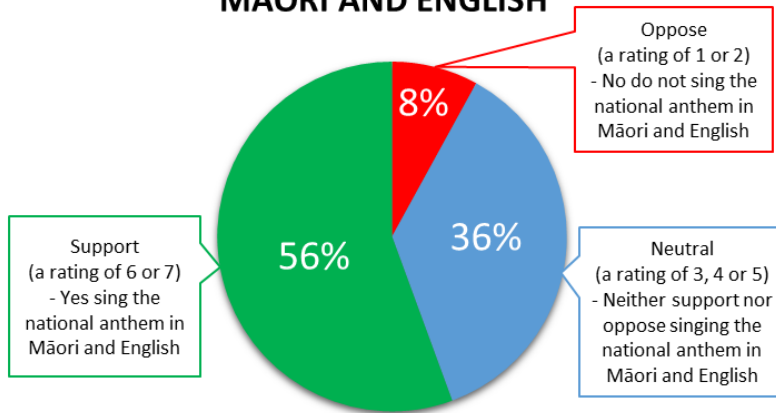


Participants' rating of opposition or support for singing the national anthem in Māori and English. (1 = Strongly Oppose, 7 = Strongly Support)

We document the distribution of opposition or support for *singing the national anthem in Māori and English* using data from the 2014/2015 wave of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (N = 15,515). Just over half (56%) of respondents were supportive of singing the national anthem in Māori and English, 36% were neither supportive nor opposed and only a mere 8% were opposed.

This suggests that most New Zealanders are either supportive of singing the national anthem in Māori and English, or on the fence about it. Only a very small number are opposed to the idea.

SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN MĀORI AND ENGLISH



"...most New Zealanders are either supportive of singing the national anthem in Māori and English, or on the fence about it. Only a very small number are opposed to the idea."

DO NEW ZEALANDERS SUPPORT TE REO MĀORI IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND?

These results imply that New Zealanders support the use of Te Reo Māori in New Zealand. More New Zealanders were supportive (40%) of teaching Te Reo Māori in New Zealand primary schools than opposed (14%). Similarly, more New Zealanders were supportive (56%) to singing the national anthem in Māori and English than opposed (8%).

However, care needs to be taken when interpreting the results of the national anthem question, as respondents may be responding to the item differently. For example, those who responded with low support may mean that they would only support singing the national anthem in either Māori or English, not both. Those with low support may also mean that they would not like to sing the national anthem at all. Further research into this area is required.



SUMMARY

- In 2015, adult New Zealanders rated their support or opposition for *teaching Māori language in primary schools* and *singing the national anthem in Māori and English*.
- On a scale of 1 (strongly oppose) to 7 (strongly support) the overall average level of support for *teaching Māori language in primary schools* was 4.8 out of 7. For *singing the national anthem in Māori and English* the overall average level of support was even higher at 5.4 out of 7.
- More New Zealanders were supportive (40%) of *teaching Māori language in primary schools* than opposed (14%). Similarly, more New Zealanders were supportive (56%) to *singing the national anthem in Māori and English* than opposed (8%).
- The rest of the respondents were neither opposed nor supportive.

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NZAVS Policy Brief

Suggested citation: Matika, C. M. (2016). Support for Te Reo Māori in Aotearoa, 2015. *NZAVS Policy Brief, 8*.

