

## Preamble/Introduction

This is not how a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) typically begins, but I'd like to begin with a personal commentary. I was taught as a child, that when I enter the home of another, to show the utmost respect to that space. This meant greeting the hosts appropriately, removing my shoes so as not to take any germs from outside in, asking to help with any chores, not going into the bedrooms (unless allowed), honouring their possessions with special regard, and so forth. You would enter that home on the basis of love, respect and honour for the hosts. In my Samoan culture, this can be seen in a Pacific concept known as 'Le Va', a sacred space that facilitates relationships between God, people, and the land. This is how I see the relationship between the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa (LIANZA) and Te Rōpū Whakahau. LIANZA have entered the home of Te Rōpū Whakahau, so everything we do together, is done on the bases of love, respect, and honour – everything is done to 'Teu Le Va': to build the relationship, to maintain bonds and to keep the connection. Within this context, I'd also like to add that I would like to move from using the formal term 'MOU' to apply to this document, but instead say, a 'partnership agreement', because essentially, that's how this is viewed: a partnership.

My hope is that this partnership agreement will solidify that base, and as a result, everyone that LIANZA serves, everyone that Te Rōpū Whakahau serves - our people, our communities, our kaimahi, will be uplifted because of this unity.

*"Tōtara wāhirua, he kai nāte ahi"*

A split totara is food for fire. Division and a lack of unity, lead to failure.

*"E vave taunu'u le malaga pe a tatou alo va'a fa'atasi"*

Our destiny is within sight when we paddle our canoe together.

Ia manuia,  
Richy Misilei (LIANZA President 23-24)

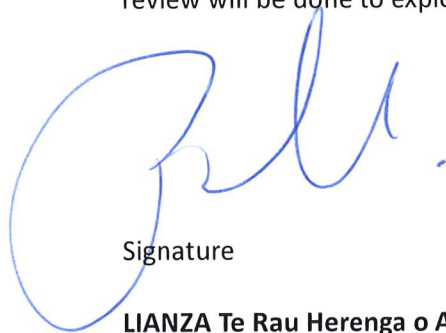
## LIANZA & TE RŌPŪ WHAKAHAU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa (LIANZA) and Te Rōpū Whakahau are committed to the recognition and implementation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all their activities.

This document acknowledges a formal partnership agreement between LIANZA and Te Rōpū Whakahau while recognising their independent status. Both parties recognise the mutual benefits of supporting and collaborating with one another, and hereby agree to enter this partnership focussed on the growth of Māori and bicultural development of the library and information sector/services in Aotearoa New Zealand.

An appendix provided below, will highlight some of the principles that will guide this partnership.

This agreement shall commence on 05/07/2024 and will last for three (3) years, before which a review will be done to explore the 'intent to renew' based on mutual agreement and satisfaction.



Signature  
LIANZA Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa



Signature  
Te Rōpū Whakahau

Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

## Guiding Principles

This partnership, **LIANZA, Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa & TE RŌPŪ WHAKAHAU:**

- Shall exhibit an honouring of Te Tiriti and its principles: Partnership, Participation and Protection.
- Shall endeavour to align their respective resources to achieve the goals of this agreement.
- Shall support and collaborate on each other's events and workshops (and other relevant mahi). This can be expressed as sharing expertise, resources, and networks, to enhance the quality and impact of such activities.
- Shall explore opportunities for shared projects, initiatives, and programs that leverage the strengths and expertise of both parties to address common challenges and advance shared objectives.
- Shall endeavour to meet regularly for whakawhanaungatanga and to make sure that the partnership is still nurturing for both associations.