



Accommodation

Each facility will provide adequate living space for young children. There will be a large general living room plus a smaller area which will serve as a nursery where younger children in the cot stage can have peace and comfort. There will also be good outside playing areas, well protected and with sufficient equipment. There should be no objects that would cause physical injury to a child, such as a heater or sharp furniture.

In other words, all the normal facilities and equipment that one would expect to find in a very good pre-school or child care centre will be available in the Te Kohanga Reo.

Supervisors

Sufficient supervisors will be recruited and receive a salary according to their qualification and performance. But they must have at least the following minimum qualifications —

- (1) Must be native Maori speakers who have lived in a Maori speaking community up to at least the age of 15 years.
- (2) Must have raised children of their own or as whangai.
- (3) Must be at least over the age of 35 years.
- (4) Must be able to carry out a full day's work caring for growing children.
- (5) Must have a good relationship with the local Maori communities to the extent that they are recognised as a person who is both reliable, trustworthy and resourceful.

Counselling

Overall it is essential that parents have counselling sessions both before

their children enter the programme and continuously throughout the growth period of the child up to and including the age of five years. This will be the responsibility of the national co-ordinator and the controlling agency assisted by the Te Kohanga Reo supervisors. It must be seen as part of the mobilisation of the whanau system.

It is vital that parents be fully aware of what is involved in the operation and that they accept the proposal. There will be the need for some legal contracts to be signed by the parents with the controlling agency to ensure that matters

such as fees and permission for urgent emergency medical treatment can be dealt with. In other words, the normal procedures required in any child custody situation where the parents are not present.

Monitoring

The consent of the parents will be necessary for children to have their own individual records kept by the centre. The responsibility for setting up this monitoring system rests with the national co-ordinator. It will be the national co-ordinator's job to produce at the end of a child's period in the centre a personalised publication, similar to a case history for the parents and the child.

The records of development of each child should be available for use by the Department of Maori Affairs or the community organisation only on the consent of the parents. In other words, any record of a child is to be kept confidential and be the basis which both national co-ordinators and supervisors would use when discussing a child's development with the parents. These discussions should take place at least on a monthly basis.

"... the family, the basis of all Maori life, has been under threat. Some of the young have had no one to guide them, the old have had no one to teach. Without this life-stream the heart of Maoridom has slowed its beat ... they (the young people) must be able to maintain their cultural heritage..."

**(Minister of Maori Affairs —
"This is your Future")**

