



Dr Joseph Selwyn Te Rito

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Joseph Te Rito is of Maori descent (indigenous to New Zealand). He was a member of the Te Reo Maori Society which was largely responsible for the 1972 Maori Language Petition which gathered over 30,000 signatures calling for the provision of Maori language within the education system and broadcasting.

Joseph was Dean of Maori Studies at the Eastern Institute of Technology for 17 years where he led the development of a degree programme in Maori language and culture. In 1988, Joseph led the development of his tribe's Maori language radio station, Radio Kahungunu and remains in that position today. He led the design and delivery of courses in Maori language by radio, attracting over 7,000 enrolments in 2003.

Joseph then moved to Auckland to become General Manager of Maori Language and Culture at the fledging national Maori Television Service. He then completed a doctorate in the field of politics and culture in New Zealand.

Currently Joseph is Knowledge Exchange Programme Leader for Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, a Centre of Research Excellence at The University of Auckland where he also leads a research project into Maori language revitalization using archival recordings of Maori elders collected by Radio Kahungunu.