**Template for approaching Kaihautū for cultural advice about a research ethics application**

As noted in the document *Research Guidelines for Māori and Community Social and Cultural Responsiveness*, as part of ethical considerations for any research project a determination must be made about whether Māori cultural consultation is required, and this determination must be justified.

The Guidelines spell out a range of possibilities regarding the need for, the required depth of, and processes involved in Māori cultural consultation. At times, when consultation is required, it may take place with skilled Māori staff within a researcher’s Practice Pathway (if these staff members are not part of the research team). At other times, consultation with external parties is necessary, and approaching Kaihautū for advice or referral may thus be required.

When approaching Kaihautū for cultural advice, it is necessary to show one’s own thinking to date about these matters, and to identify any gaps therein which Kaihautū can assist you to address. It is everyone’s responsibility to engage proactively in social and cultural responsiveness. The need for dialogue and engagement with knowledgeable advisers, when applicable, is one aspect of such responsiveness.

Note that there are a range of professional development opportunities available for staff to upskill in these areas. Te Rito Suite offerings can be found here: <http://www.unitec.ac.nz/maori/maori-courses/professional-development>. For Unitec’s upcoming ‘Beyond Diversity’ offering/s, run through Unitec’s Institute for Courageous Conversations About Race, please contact [courageousconversation@unitec.ac.nz](mailto:courageousconversation@unitec.ac.nz)

When approaching Kaihautū for advice or referral, please e-mail answers to the following, indicating any gaps for which support may be needed:

***Title of project*:**

***Project participants*:**

What Māori involvement there will be or may be, and how this involvement will be managed. Include the need to allow any Māori participants to engage in the project using Te Reo, and indicate how potential participants will be advised of this option. When engagement with Māori is significant, consider whether Māori authorship role/s are desired and appropriate.

***Project impact:***

Regardless of whether or not there will be Māori participants in the project, describe the potential impact of the research on Māori. Is the topic area pertinent to Māori? Are the findings likely to be applicable or transferrable to Māori in ways that are notable? Are there significant relationships between Māori and any groups or organizations featured in the research? Do questions about relationships to land or cultural property need to be considered? Could conclusions drawn from the research include commentary on Māori as a population? Be sure to evidence your claims when addressing these questions, citing existing research or practice.

Describe how any pertinent impact of the project on Māori might be represented in (the) research write-up(s)