Whakawhanaungatanga
Building connections together

The only people who know what it's like to be a student now are today' students. We know what works for us and we're happy to share our insights.

We'd like to know from the get-go what information providers need from us during our learning, and what decisions we'll be involved in, when and how. It's too late for consultation when a solution is nearly fully formed.

There are networks of tauira who could benefit from more support from providers. We are more than just students – we belong to networks who know us, and who can support us. Providers are active in a range of local and national networks. We could invite each other to walk in these different worlds.

By working together, students and providers can involve more Māori, Pacific, disabled, international, interfaith, Rainbow, part-time, distance and mature tauira in decision making.

> "Māori have been excluded from having a voice because there is often only one seat at the table and that goes to Pākehā networks. Even when we are included, our value is often to perform tokenistic roles such as saying the karakia."

> "When there's only one student at the table, they can only speak of their own or their cohort's experiences; they can't represent the diversity of voices."

> "Often Pasifika voices are left out. Why aren't there more seats at the table?"

> "Develop relationships, have regular touch points and continue conversations every day – that way it becomes a habit, like making the bed!"

Whakawhanuangatanga: We'll know we're successful in building connections with each other when tauira and providers:

» **Engage in ways that honour Te Tiriti**
» **Involve and hear diverse tauira in decision-making**
» **Share information**
» **Grow relationships and extend networks.**

Some ways for tauira and providers to make building connections real are:

» Prioritise building ongoing relationships with tauira and their communities to find common ground and value-based goals.

» Practise transparency with feedback loops and agreements.

» Enable equitable participation for students by ensuring they are accessible, and meeting in comfortable and safe spaces for tauira.

» Whānau, iwi, and community are involved in strengthening student voice.

» Get out of our comfort zones and meet in places that are important to different tauira and communities.

» Find common ground by having some values-based discussions.

» How are whānau, hapū, iwi involved in strengthening student voice?

» Tauira are informed and resourced to participate in decision-making.

» Share information often and widely – not just on a need-to-know or just-in-time basis.

» Let people know about issues as soon as they arise and engage from day one, not the end of the process.

» Offer each other places at routine meetings.

Whiria ngā rau

Progressing from student voice to partnerships
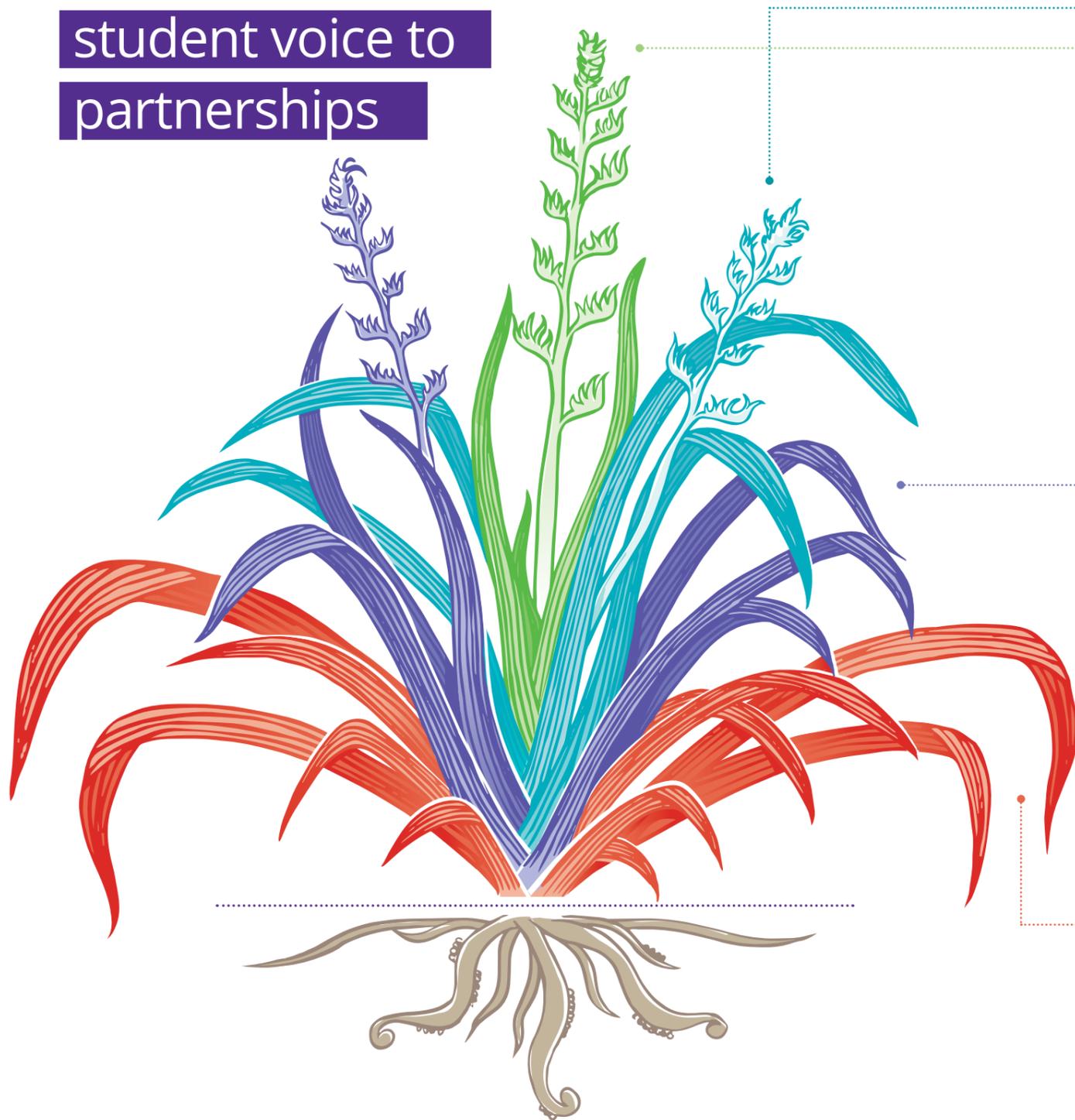
The **Whiria Ngā Rau** framework has four rau that tauira (students) and providers can use to build partnerships:

Whakapakari
Strengthening students' voices

» Build capability and confidence to express learner voice

» Develop ways of working that fit the learning environment

» Receive and pass on lessons from previous cohorts

» Make plans and offers to express student voice.

Whakawhanaungatanga
Building connections with each other

» Engage in ways that honour Te Tiriti

» Involve and hear diverse tauira in decision-making

» Share information

» Grow relationships and extend networks.

Akoranga
Learning with and from each other

» Work openly and transparently

» Know what is expected of each other and stay motivated to continue the relationship

» Learn to shape the relationship, measure progress, and reflect on improvements

» Maintain feedback loops and report regularly.

Mahitahi
Working together

» Give practical effect to Te Tiriti

» Develop ideas and solutions together

» Shape engagements together and build routines to embed student voice

» There are tuakana-teina relationships and roles can be reversed at any time.

Whiria = weave   *Rau = leaf*

TE MANA ĀKONGA
National Māori Tertiary Students' Association

NZUSA

TAUIRA PASIFIKA

National Disabled Students' Association

TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION