

Annex A: IWI MATTERS UPDATE



Chris Kumeroa

From the iwi of Whanganui, Chris has been involved in civil defence at the local and national level. Since 2015, he has voluntarily worked with the Whanganui City Council on a Pan-Iwi Civil Defence Partnership model that seeks to build the capacity and resilience of the iwi in an emergency. This has achieved the following:

- 40 x iwi members trained in Foundation Civil Defence
- 5 x iwi members trained in advanced Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS – used nationally to manage the response to an incident involving multiple agencies and organisations)
- 24 x iwi members trained in First Aid for marae response
- 2 dedicated, and now operational, marae welfare centres - Tupoho complex and Te Ao Hou Marae

Chris is currently engaged in National Iwi Chairs Forum Pandemic Response Group, leading multiple work streams that are advocating for Māori. This involves working with the government and the country's National Crisis Management Centre, (coordinating the COVID19 response). His role is to ensure that there is a connection between iwi and the civil defence organisations, and that the needs of Māori and vulnerable communities are being met.

Chris has led some of the work (through submissions) relating to the government's Emergency Management Technical Advisory Group Review 2018, and the National Disaster Resilience Strategy that was released in 2019. He was also asked to provide feedback on proposed changes to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act. Chris enjoys being of service to his people and the Māori community.