

ATANZ is excited to host

Ko tōku reo tōku ohooho: Towards culturally located te reo Māori AAC – webinar

presented by Speech-language Therapist

Brynlea Collin Stone

7–21 September – Pre-webinar online conversation on Facebook

22 September 3.30-5.00 pm live webinar – 1 hour webinar with 30 minutes of question and answer time

Zoom: A link will be emailed after registration

Cost:

Free for individuals who use AAC, parents & whānau

Free for ATANZ members

Free for Māori medium education settings (Kōhanga Reo, Kura and Tertiary settings)

\$30 for an individual registration

\$80 for a group registration (max limit of 30 people per group)

Profits raised by this webinar will go towards a one-off grant to support development of te reo Māori resources or a one-time research grant to further this field of study.

Registrations close 1 week before the live webinar

Register online on the ATANZ website – <https://atanz.org.nz/events>

Please note that this webinar will be recorded and available to those who have signed up to watch at a later date. A secure link and password will be sent to registered participants afterwards. ATANZ reserve the right to release the recording publically in the future.

About this presentation

This webinar presents the findings of Brynlea’s Masters research into a Māori perspective of AAC. The research asked, what would AAC be like if it truly represented te reo Maori? And how do we go about creating these tools?

Information was collected through kōrero across the country with a range of people who use te reo Māori and AAC to communicate in their whānau and in their work. They shared that the first step is recognising and honouring the importance of te reo Māori for people who communicate using AAC. This includes identifying and responding to biases and barriers in therapy and education models. Secondly, AAC for te reo must represent te ao Māori in many ways – not just words and grammar, but also in the shared metaphors and ways of learning language that it assumes. Understanding this, a pathway opens for creating AAC systems in partnership with whānau Māori.

Who can attend?

Anyone who is interested in finding out more or sharing their experiences of accessing te reo Māori on a communication system. This is open to everyone! People who use communication systems, parents, whānau, anyone who works in the education or health sectors, support workers, people who work with adults who use communication systems (e.g. Māori speakers who've had a stroke), university students, researchers, innovative businesses, etc. We would love to have you contribute to the conversation.

Why attend?

To hear the whakaaro of the contributors to the study, as shared by Brynlea.

To develop understanding of the importance of te reo Māori for all who choose to speak it, regardless of their communication modality.

To add to the conversation: We need to work together – people who have mātauranga Māori, whānau who use the two languages of te reo Māori and AAC, and people who have AAC expertise – to understand and create accurate and accessible AAC systems for te reo Māori.

About Brynlea Collin Stone

Tēnā koutou,

I am a speech-language therapist from Christchurch, now living in Kirikiriroa-Hamilton. I started doing this research after five years of working at Kimi Ora School in Lower Hutt. It was inspired by a class of tamariki who had five different home languages, one of which was te reo Māori. I was starting to introduce them to AAC, but I soon realised that I could not provide them with language input or systems that would support them to communicate with their whānau or in their mother tongues. This struck me as an issue of communication access justice. I was especially concerned that failing to provide support for te reo Māori is a failure to meet the promises of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, so set out to discover – what would AAC look like if it was made by Māori, for Māori? This thesis is a small contribution towards answering that question.

Since completing my study I have moved to the Waikato to be close to family. I am now working as a contractor, primarily to Talking Trouble Aotearoa. I am still passionate about how access to communication can give people access to justice and to realising their rights.

