



Funding & Application Guidelines

Updated August 2026

Introduction

E karanga ana ki ngā kaiwaiata, ngā kaipuoro me ngā kaipuoro ataata kia arotahi mai ki tēnei kaupapa o *Waiata Takitahi*!

This document sets out detailed requirements for artists intending to make an application to the NZ On Air and Te Māngai Pāho *Waiata Takitahi* round.

To read a brief overview of *Waiata Takitahi* funding, click [here](#).

To read our *Waiata Takitahi* Frequently Asked Questions and eligibility criteria, click [here](#).

What is *Waiata Takitahi*?

Waiata Takitahi ('single song') is a co-fund and collaboration between **NZ On Air and Te Māngai Pāho**. Launched in 2020, it was the first time the two funding agencies were able to join forces on a music funding initiative. The ambition for this fund is to enable the creation of brand-new waiata with strong reo Māori lyrical content that have a good chance to connect with the audiences of New Zealand.

We are seeking applications from New Zealand artists who are interested in **recording and releasing a bilingual single** with potential general audience appeal and a **minimum of 25% reo Māori lyric**. We are looking for waiata which have the potential to connect with the audiences of New Zealand, as well as finding homes on broadcast platforms to encourage and support the use of te reo Māori in contemporary waiata.

Artists can come from any background, but the use of te reo Māori in the waiata will have to be supported by a Poutiaki Reo (Māori language advisor) to ensure correct usage, context and pronunciation. Having a Poutiaki Reo confirmed by the application deadline is preferred as it is advantageous to your project, however all applicants will receive the same opportunity and assistance to recruit a suitable Poutiaki Reo post-deadline, if their application is successful.

Successful recipients will be supported with professional music manager mentoring sessions through the Music Managers Forum with a focus on helping successful applicants achieve the best possible broadcast and online impact for their funded work.

Funding amount – up to \$14,000 (+ GST)

Waiata Takitahi grants of **up to \$14,000** (plus GST, if registered) are available.

The funding can be used towards a professional release-ready recording of the waiata, video content and other visual collateral to assist with the waiata release along with promotion, publicity and marketing. We expect that some of the funding will need to be utilised to engage a Poutiaki Reo to ensure correct use of language and context in the final waiata (including a minimum of 25% te reo Māori).

NZ On Air's mandatory Artist Creation Fee (ACF) of \$1,000 will also be applied, for internal creative services provided to the project by the artist. This brings the total *Waiata Takitahi* grant up to \$15,000.

NZ On Air and Te Māngai Pāho are both contributing pūtea to this fund.

Artists/rights holders are not required to co-invest, however if additional investment is required to complete the project this will be the responsibility of the rights holder.

Guidelines for applying

- Funding of up to **\$15,000 (plus GST)** will be available for a single with at least 25% reo Māori in the lyric. (\$14,000 plus up to \$1,000 Artist Creation Fee).
- Applicants must be **New Zealand Citizens or Permanent Residents**. Click [here](#) for more information about whether your music qualifies as New Zealand music.
- Primary broadcast and online outlets for this music include any local radio stations, various streaming service playlists, video streaming sites, and the potential to cross to other playlists.
- Successful recipients can be supported with professional music manager mentoring and planning sessions through the Aotearoa Music Managers Forum with a focus on helping successful applicants achieve the best possible broadcast and online impact for their funded work.
- To be eligible to apply for *Waiata Takitahi* funding, we ask that you have reached **at least 5 out of 25 criteria benchmarks** for your music to date. If you can reach at least 5 out of these 25 benchmarks, then your waiata and application can be submitted to be assessed by our expert funding panels.
- You must also submit an initial budget on the provided Budget Template.

- The waiata **must be unreleased** if you are applying for *Waiata Takitahi* funding. If your waiata is already released online, we will decline your funding application.
- You can apply for funding for only the video content and promotion of a waiata, but the waiata must be unreleased and not publicly available*, and you will not be eligible for reimbursement of any of the recording costs associated with that waiata.

* 'Publicly available' means you have released the waiata through a DSP ('Digital Service Provider') or any publicly accessible platform.

- We can only accept **one waiata per artist per round** for consideration.
- If there are music samples in your waiata, you must confirm that you hold the intellectual property rights for all elements of the waiata, including clearance of any samples used.
- We do not accept covers, remakes or remixes for *Waiata Takitahi* funding.
- For those who apply to NZ On Air for music funding support: no single artist can receive *New Music Single* funding more than three times within a 12-month period (including Focus Rounds i.e. *New Music Pasifika*, *New Music Pan-Asian*, *New Music Kids*, *Waiata Takitahi*); and no more than three times for any one album or EP release campaign. No *New Music Project* funded albums or EPs can receive additional *New Music Single* or Focus Round funding, nor further funding above the \$55,000 cap. The applicant can have only one *New Music Single* (or Focus Round funding) application open at the time of applying and zero *New Music Project* applications open.

Submitting an application

Waiata Takitahi applications will only be accepted online via NZ On Air's [NewMusicSingles](#) application portal. Go there now to get started.

Please look for the specific *Waiata Takitahi* badge, then click and begin your application once the round opens.

If this is your first time applying within the NZ On Air NewMusicSingle portal, you will need to register and login **ahead** of the deadline, so please do this well in advance of the deadline date.

To apply for funding for *Waiata Takitahi* you will need a recorded demo version of the waiata you are applying for funding for, and you will need to fill out the online application.

Budget for application

As of January 2025, all *Waiata Takitahi* funding applications must include an initial budget outlining your expected costs. This demonstrates your production readiness and will help assessors understand how you intend to use the funding.

The Application Budget Template can be found as an Excel spreadsheet or Google Sheets, which you can upload or link to in the *Waiata Takitahi* funding application.

You can find the downloadable Excel budget template [here](#). You can find the online Google Sheets budget template [here](#).

You can find the Budget Expectations for *Waiata Takitahi* funding [here](#).

Criteria for applying to *Waiata Takitahi*

The application process includes working your way through a list of 25 criteria options focused on your music journey and audience engagement to date. *Waiata Takitahi* applicants will need to have achieved at least **5 of the 25 criteria** options to proceed to the application stage. The full list of criteria can be found [here](#).

Assessment criteria

Applications for *Waiata Takitahi* funding will be assessed by a panel of NZ On Air, Te Māngai Pāho and external assessors. Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Potential to assist with increasing levels of New Zealand music on radio
- Potential to impact online audiences with significant streams/views/shares/likes/sales
- Integration of te reo Māori in the waiata
- Cultural value of the project for New Zealand audiences
- Track record of the artist
- Strength of the overall application, plan and media targets
- Experience of the Poutiaki Reo

The fine print

NZ On Air fully encourages a safe working environment for all associated with funded content. To that end, those who are funded will be required to agree to abide by our [Code of Conduct](#) and any relevant legislation in signing our funding agreement. For music funding recipients, this includes the [Safe Spaces Agreement](#).

NZ On Air reserves the right, as custodians of public funding, to assess any risks associated with an application.

It is within NZ On Air's discretion to approve or decline any application.

If your application is successful, alongside a few other requirements we stipulate that:

- All collaborators (e.g. producers, videographers, photographers) are required to sign the *NZ On Air Safe Spaces Agreement* and adhere to the NZ On Air [Code of Conduct](#).
- Producers must be aware of their obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. Producers of video projects are required to:
- Follow the *Health and Safety in the New Zealand Screen Sector* guidelines found at <http://screensafe.co.nz>.
- Abide by agreed industry work standards as expressed in the [Individual Performance Agreement](#) (SPADA and NZ Actors Equity) and [The Blue Book](#) (NZ Film and Video Technicians Guild).
- Ensure the content is clearly branded as NZ On Air-funded. See our [accreditation requirements here](#).

The following standard terms and conditions apply to your application. In submitting your application, you are deemed to have read, understood and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions:

- you must bear all your own costs in preparing and submitting your application
- you represent and warrant that all information provided to us is complete and accurate
- we may rely upon all statements made in your application
- we may amend, suspend, cancel and/or re-issue these guidelines at any time
- we may waive any irregularities or informalities in the application process
- we may seek clarification of any proposal and meet with any applicant
- we will not seek clarification of all applications or meet with all applicants
- we are not bound to accept any application
- you will not submit in your application any data that breaches any third party right (including intellectual property rights and privacy rights) or is objectionable, incorrect or misleading
- we both agree to take reasonable steps to protect the other's confidential information
- our obligation to protect your confidential information is subject to the Official

Information Act 1982 and other legal, parliamentary and constitutional conventions

- there is no binding legal relationship between us: a successful proposal is only formally accepted if we both sign a funding contract.
- you must acknowledge us by using 'NZ On Air' accreditation prominently throughout the content, its publicity material and user documentation as set out in our Accreditation Guidelines in Schedule 4 (as modified or extended from time to time), or in an alternative manner with prior approval from us in writing. The form and placement of the credit is to be agreed by us.
- NZ On Air reserves the right to withhold payment or reduce any amount of our Project Funding if NZ On Air is not acknowledged in any content of your Project (including content that has been publicly released) in accordance with our Accreditation Guidelines or in an alternative manner approved by us in writing.