

Student 2: High Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**91517 (3.6) Extract from student supporting evidence****Role: Wai (Sue) from *Waiora* by Hone Kouka**

Wai is the mother of the family, in her late 30's, still good looking although worn down from working hard around the home. Wai is wife to Hone, whom she is devoted to and will put before anything. "I've always been there for you, what you wanted, your dreams". She stands up to her husband if she knows he has done wrong. She is mothering to Boy, seeing him as her own, even though he is not her biological son. Wai speaks with a Māori accent but is well spoke in both Māori and English, showing that she is well educated. This was common with Māori of this generation as they took great care to fit in well to the Pākehā world, while Pākehā did not do the same in return, shown in Steve and Louise's pronunciation of Te Reo. My voice in the performance is accented with Māori intonation and sounds like an older, middle aged Māori woman. Wai stands tall and strong as she is unofficially the leader of the family. She is constantly fussing around, making sure everything is in order. Wai puts her family before anything else in the world and is extremely protective of them. Wai initiates the family heirachy, knowing that Hone is at the top. She also understands the role of Māori in society, understanding that it is inappropriate at this time to speak Māori in public. She wants to impress Steve, knowing that he is high on the social ladder.

My intention for this performance is to show how Wai views the cultural differences between Māori and Pākehā and how she stands up for her family. Wai's character explores the idea of racial differences and the importance of the acknowledgement that Aotearoa is a bilingual and bicultural country. Through Wai's character we see that *Waiora* is about a Māori family's struggle to keep themselves above the water and the significance of Māori urban drift in the 1060's.