



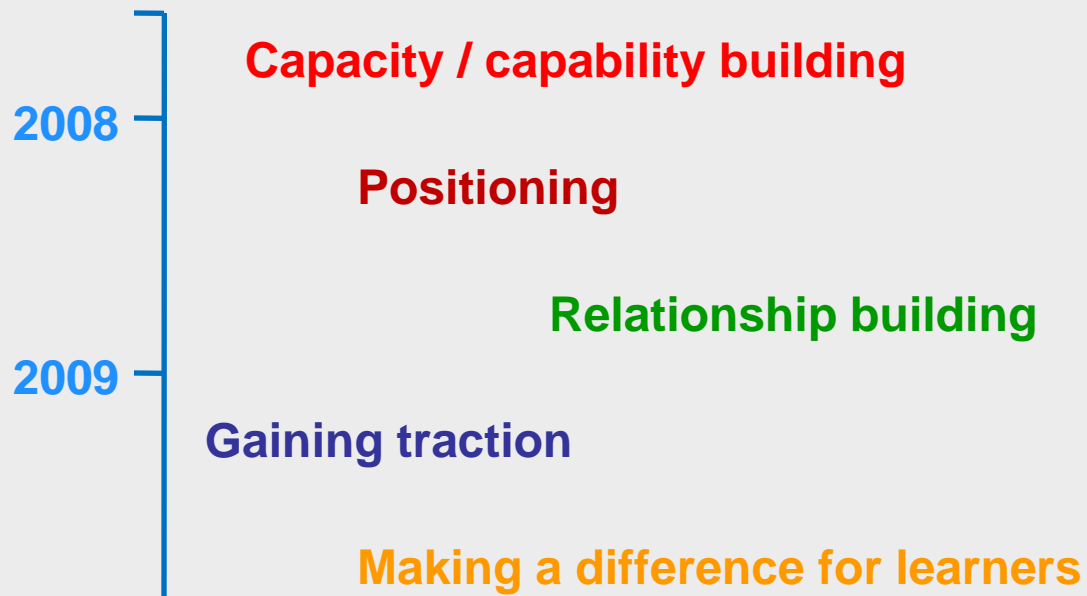
Championing excellence in tertiary teaching and learning in
Aotearoa, New Zealand

Ako Aotearoa Academy Symposium – Staying in the Limelight
Friday 30th October 2009

Peter Coolbear

Ako Aotearoa: then till now

- 2005 Teaching Matters Forum Consultation
- 2006 Consortium Tender process
- 2006 – mid 2007: establishment planning phase



Ako Aotearoa's mission:

Champions of excellence in tertiary teaching and learning

Through a focus on enhancing the effectiveness of tertiary teaching and learning practices, the Centre will assist educators and organisations to enable **the best possible educational outcomes for all learners.**

By the end of 2009:

We will have commissioned:

- **over 100 projects to improve teaching and learning in New Zealand**
- **around 50 good practice publications**
- **seven major hard-copy publications**

We already have:

- **3,200 + people on our mailing list**
- **hosted 40 national or regional seminars/workshops**
- **900 + registered web-site users**
- **an average of 7,600 hits a week on our web-site**

Our key starting assumptions:

- **There is a great deal of good practice out there**

..... **the problem is it's not celebrated, shared or debated enough**

..... **often learner benefit is assumed, not tested**

..... **often it is left to the individual, rather than driven by the organisation**

.... have been demonstrated to be robust

Environmental scan:

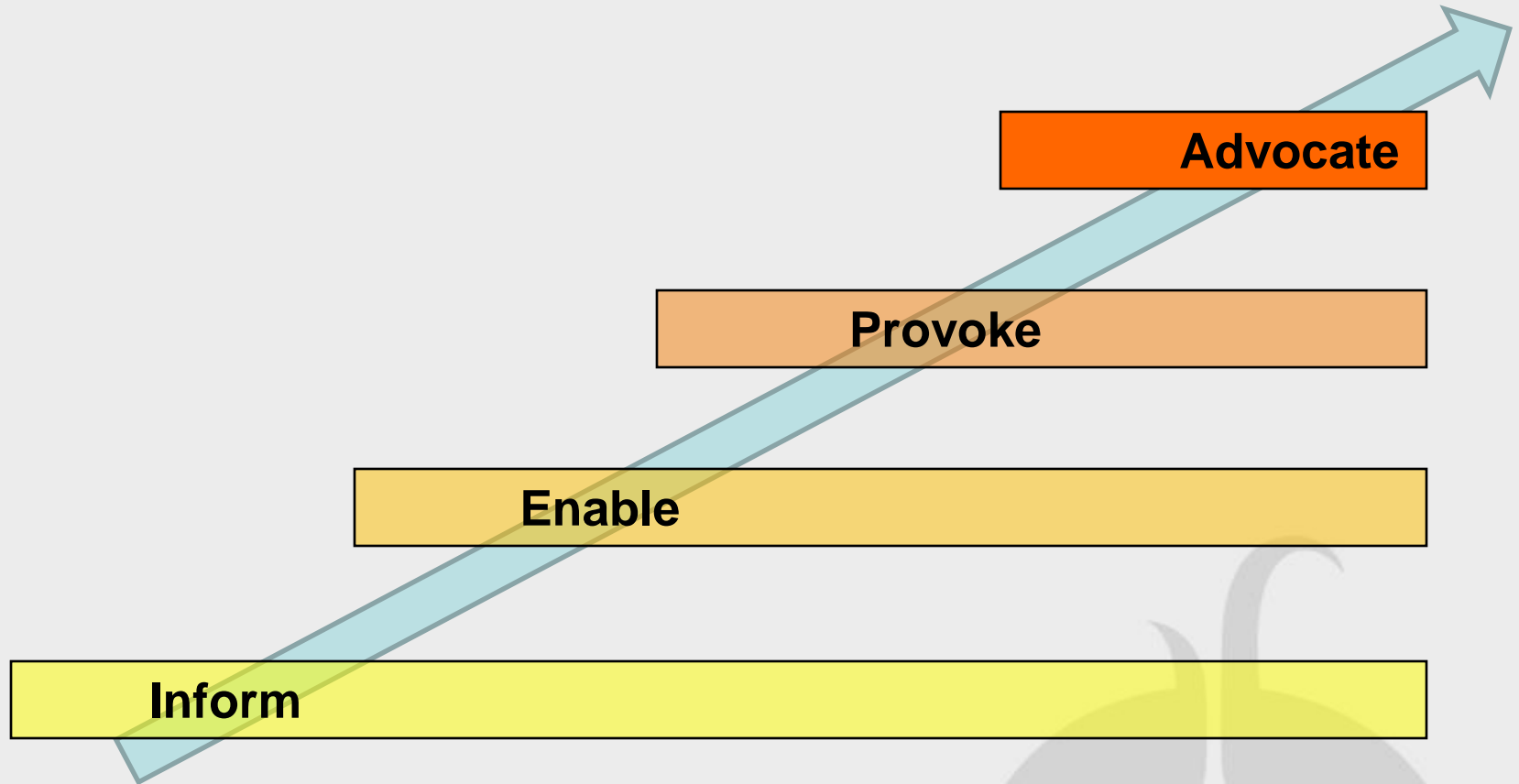
- **Tertiary Education Strategy**
- **LLN initiatives**
- **Education and productivity**
- **Targeted qualifications review**
- **Education (Polytechnics) Amendment Bill**
- **Greater public accountability through Self-Assessment and External Evaluation and Review**
- **Performance-based funding**

- *Transforming Australia's Higher Education System*
- *UK House of Commons Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee: "Students and Universities"*

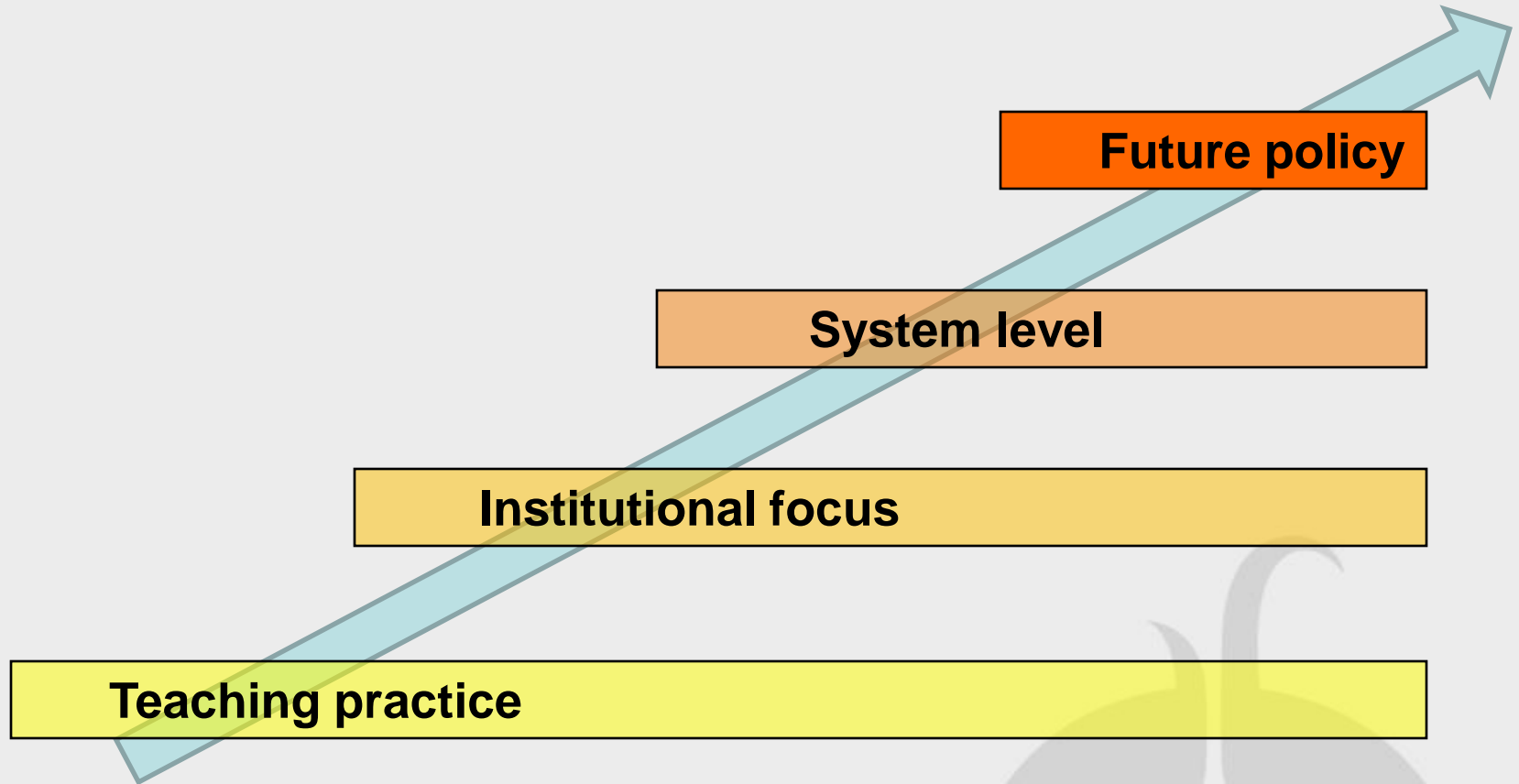
Evolution of our strategic emphasis:

- **2008 – 2009:** Building and positioning the organisation and gaining traction across the breadth of the tertiary sector
- **2010 - :** Increasing leverage with TEOs and focussing on impact for learners

Our emphasis is changing:



Our locus of activity is changing as well:



Emerging strategic themes for Ako Aotearoa from 2010 onwards

- 1. Developing a second front**
 - Thresholds of acceptability
- 2. Evidence-based enhancement of practice at individual and organisation level**
- 3. Strategic, sustainable support for Māori educators and learners**
- 4. Strategic, sustainable support for Pacific educators and learners**
- 5. Supporting the learner voice**
- 6. Working in partnership**

Our key activities are likely to remain the same

Project funder

Resource developer / collator

Supporting communities of practice

Identifying and celebrating good and excellent practice

Raising the level of debate

Independent policy advice

New projects include:

Definites:

- **Stock-take of qualifications for tertiary teachers**
- **Development of a Māori strategy and framework**
- **Australasian Survey of Student Engagement – working with the data**
- **AUSSE– an ITP version**
- **SoTL**
- **Codes of practice / provider learner contracts**
- **Formative evaluation of Ako Aotearoa**
- **Web-site enhancement**

Strategic Themes

	Strategic Themes					
Projects	Thresholds of Acceptability	Evidence and Enhancement	Māori	Pacific	Learner Voice	Partnership
Qualifications Stocktake						
Māori Strategy						
AUSSE – Data use and interpretation						
AUSSE – ITP version						
SoTL						
Codes of Practice						
Formative evaluation of Ako Aotearoa						
Web-site						



New projects include:

Possibles:

- **Funding incentives for teaching performance**
- **Leadership in tertiary teaching**
- **Māori learner support (building on existing work with TPK)**
- **Workplace literacy (possible joint project with DoL)**
- **Evaluation of ACE professional development initiatives (with ACE Aotearoa)**
- **Assessment supporting learning**
- **Impact of self-assessment on teaching and learning**

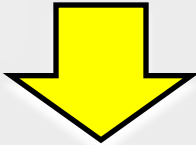
Implications for our project funds

1. Basic principles still apply



Pasteur's Quadrant

National Project Fund



Quest for fundamental knowledge?

Yes

No

Pure basic research	Use-inspired research based projects
Work of limited value	Applied Projects

Methodological Integrity

No

Yes

Practice focus?

Potential Impact

Pasteur's Quadrant

Smaller project funds

↑
Quest for
fundamental
knowledge?

Yes

Pure basic
research

Use-inspired
research based
projects

No

Work of limited
value

Applied
Projects

Methodological
Integrity

No

Yes

Practice focus?

Potential
Impact

Implications for our project funds:

- **Basic principles still apply**
- **Proactive partnerships with other funders (e.g. NZCER; ACE Aotearoa; TPK; etc.)**
- **Māori Caucus in discussion with MIP Panel and National Hui will determine priorities for MIP fund 2010 onwards**
- **Pacific Caucus will determine priorities for PPP fund 2010 onwards**
- **Board will determine priorities for R&I Fund 2010 onwards in discussion with R&I Panel**
- **Regional Hub Fund impact review**

Implications for the Academy:

- **Key partner for Ako Aotearoa**
- **Positioning through established authority and action**
 - **e.g. How does the work of the Academy support the TES?**
- **Enhanced inclusivity of the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards is part of our Māori strategy**
- **Members might think about developing proposals for work against any upcoming RFPs**



- Establishing and supporting an Academy of past Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards winners
- Building an authoritative voice of practitioner excellence