



I am a good man

Cover Art:

Ko Ngai Tai te hapū,
Ko Ngai Tai te iwi,
Ko Tairoa Flanagan toku ingoa.

Figure 20. A close-up photograph of one side of the carved tapatoru (triangle) and some of the pool balls enclosed by the rack. In the foreground, one of the pool balls also has a stylized Māori motif, pointing upwards and outward, towards the camera.

I am a good man

Ae, I'm really proud to be Māori.

I respect, I ask and I love.

I like knowing someone and them knowing me.

I love being in a relationship. My two previous relationships have been with women who have a disability, but that does not define who we are as people, as family members or as a couple.

I like cuddles, closeness and being sexually intimate.

Intimacy and sex is part of being in a relationship – a healthy, normal relationship. I am normal, sex is normal, intimacy is normal and having intimacy in my relationships means good communication.

I know lust and I know boundaries.

Respecting personal boundaries and not pushing those boundaries. Yeah sure, I want to go further at times but I want it to be right for both of us. For us, both to be ready.

I am a good man.

I cry when a relationship does not work out.

It hurts when I break up. I'm heart broken, frustrated, angry, confused and unsure.

I ask, who else would be a good man like me, to her, and will he know how to be her good man?

I really cared and loved my previous girlfriend and it hurts me to think about her with another man. I just keep wondering if he knows her well and is a good man to her as I was?

I will always love my ex-girlfriends because they were part of me. I get support from my whānau, friends and especially my mum.

I have a really supportive whānau and friends and I know that it will get a little easier over time to accept the relationship has finished

and that I need to keep going with the things in my life. Whānau is key to my wellbeing.

I work hard, I swim, I do my marital arts and I play pool.

I am a good man.

Being busy and being active is important. I do something most days of the week. I want to be a competitive pool player. I'm working my way up the pool ladder. I practice every day on my pool table and go to club champs.

Who is independent and who has a license to drive.

Being independent is key to feeling good about myself.

Mum has taught me to do things for myself so that I can be independent. She taught me to drive. Took me for driving lessons, and went with me to the defensive driving programme. I learnt that road code so well.

Around the community I have come to know, And who knows me.

I lived in Rotorua before I came to Ōtautahi, and Rotorua will always be where I am from, but Ōtautahi is a good place, because I know my way around and the people here, and they know me. I like knowing my place.

I attended a mainstream school, and had great relationships with my peers, teachers and the principals of the school. They knew me and I knew them. I still know their names and when they were principals at those schools.

I am a good man, who will love another,

My whānau tell me I will get through my relationship breakup and meet someone else. I am actually taking someone out this Saturday to the movies but I want to take it really slowly because I want to get to know her.

And, one day

I will be a good... dad.

One day, not yet, not soon, but one day, yeah I would like to have a family and be a good dad (laugh).

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A proud Māori man

Of Ngāti Whātua me Te Arawa descent

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