

Research and Inquiry Facilitation Services

The research section undertakes two principal functions: compiling the evidential base for inquiry and inquiry facilitation. In the former, the evidential base in district inquiries is focused mainly on historical research and supporting source material. The section assists Tribunals to plan and implement casebook research programmes that produce the majority of the technical evidence required for a district inquiry to commence.

This involves maintaining a close working relationship with the claimants and the Crown and with the other agencies involved in research on historical claims, particularly the Crown Forestry Rental Trust, so as to ensure a coordinated approach to research within the sector. The Tribunal's research staff help to identify claim issues requiring research and to design casebook research projects and programmes. They also undertake Tribunal research commissions and project manage commissioned external contractors.

The second main function is inquiry facilitation. Research staff facilitate the effective participation of all parties through all inquiry stages up to the close of hearings. They advise and assist Tribunal presiding officers to conduct fair and efficient inquiry processes, especially for the filing and leading of evidence. They advise claimants and the Tribunal on all evidential matters, and assist Tribunal panels to determine issues for inquiry, in particular through Tribunal statements of issues.

Qualifications and Technical Skills

The qualifications and technical skills required for these positions are:

- A tertiary education to at least masters level in history or Māori studies.
- An alternative tertiary qualification to at least masters level in other disciplines, in particular resource management, law, and social science, will be considered if the applicant has appropriate research skills.

Experience

For these positions, an applicant should have:

- Proven professional experience in primary historical research or equivalent relevant research experience in other disciplinary fields.
- A thorough working knowledge of the principal archival repositories for researching New Zealand history and, in particular, Treaty-related topics.

- A track record of published and/or commissioned research to scholarly standard in history or other relevant fields.
- Proven experience in using information technology in day-to-day work practices, especially in composing large reports and effectively accessing online research resources.
- Practical experience in group facilitation and project leadership.
- Experience of working with Māori groups and organisations.