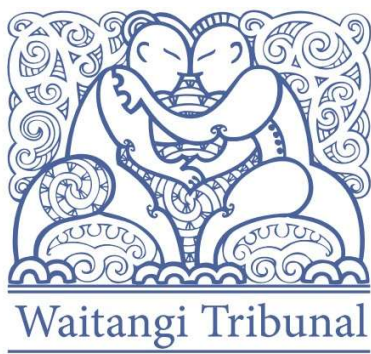


Waitangi Tribunal

Hauwhaikaha Report:

Chapter 9 –

Partnership mechanisms

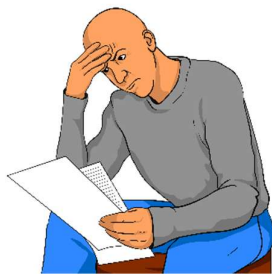


Published: September 2026

Before you begin



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



What you will find in here

Page number:



About this Easy Read3



What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi?10



What is the Waitangi Tribunal?12



Has the Crown worked in partnership with taangata whaikaha Maaori?14



Do taangata whaikaha Maaori have enough chances to take part in making decisions?24



Tribunal findings.....31

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is from the **Waitangi Tribunal**.



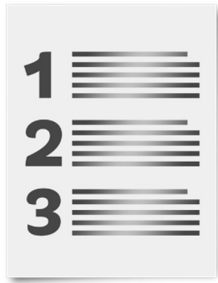
More information about the **Waitangi Tribunal** is on **pages 12 to 13**.



Where it says **we / us** this means the Waitangi Tribunal.



This Easy Read is a **summary** of **Chapter 9 – Partnership mechanisms** in the **Hauwhaikaha Report**.



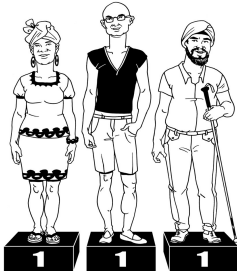
A **summary**:

- is shorter than the main document
- tells you the important ideas.

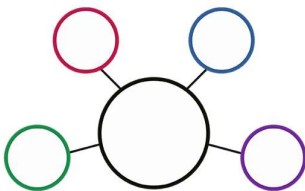


Partnership means people:

- work together in a fair way
- share power when decisions are made.



Mechanisms means ways of doing things.





The **Hauwhaikaha Report** is:

- from the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** by the Waitangi Tribunal
- about **claims** that have to do with the disability system.

The **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** is about claims made about Aotearoa New Zealand health:

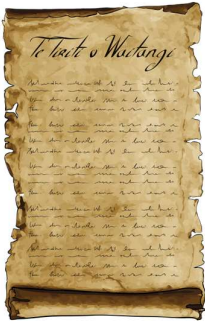
- services
- **outcomes.**

Outcomes means how things turn out for people in life.

For example getting good healthcare can mean being healthier for longer.

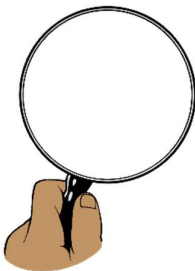


In this document the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** will be called **the inquiry**.

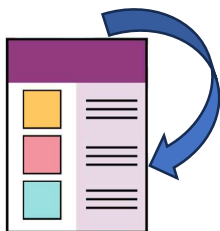


Here a **claim** means someone:

- has told the Waitangi Tribunal that the Government has done something against **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**
- wants the Waitangi Tribunal to look into it.



In this document the word **claimants** means people who have made claims to the Waitangi Tribunal about the disability system.



More information about **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi** is on **pages 10 to 11**.



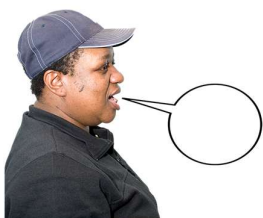
In this document where you see the words **taangata whaikaha Maaori** this means Maaori disabled people.



Te reo Maaori / the Maaori language usually uses **macrons**.

ā ē ī ō ū

Macrons are lines above letters that show you how to say that word.



In te reo Maaori / the Maaori language a macron means to say that letter longer.

Aa ee ii oo uu

The Hauwhaikaha Report uses double letters instead of macrons.

Maaori / Māori

For example Maaori is the same as Māori.



This is so some people can read the words more easily.

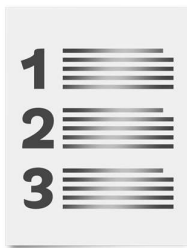


You can read the full Hauwhaikaha Report at this website:

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha



The full report is **not** in Easy Read.

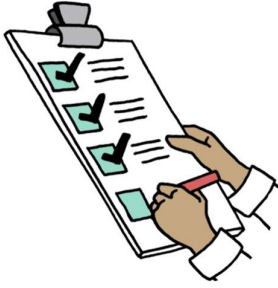


There are summaries of each chapter if you do not want to read the full Hauwhaikaha Report.



The summaries of each chapter are available in Easy Read at this website:

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha-easy



The summary of each chapter gives an outline of:

- important issues
- things that were found out.



The summaries do not include all the:

- **analysis**
- **evidence.**



Here **analysis** means discussion / thinking about what was found out.



Here **evidence** is information about something like:

- what people said
- what happened to people
- records / files.

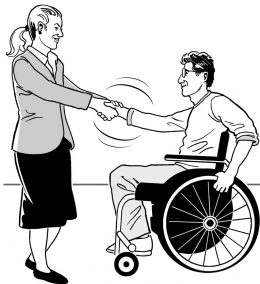


What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi?



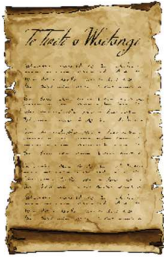
Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi:

- is an agreement signed between:
 - the Crown
 - and
 - Maaori
- was signed in 1840
- is about the:
 - promises made
 - **obligations** for everyone.





Obligations are important things that have to be done.



In this document Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi will be called **Te Tiriti / The Treaty**.



Where it says the **Crown** in this document this means the **Government**.

What is the Waitangi Tribunal?



The Waitangi Tribunal:

- is a **commission of inquiry**
- listens to claims
- decides if the Government has broken a promise made in Te Tiriti / The Treaty
- makes **recommendations** about claims Maaori have made about the Crown.

A **commission of inquiry** is a group of people put together by the Government who learn about things that happened.



Here **recommendations** are advice that would:

- fix a problem
- make things better.

Why are there claims?



Governments of Aotearoa New Zealand have not always kept to the promises made in Te Tiriti / The Treaty.



Māori can go to the Waitangi Tribunal to talk about the Government not keeping the promises made in Te Tiriti / The Treaty.

Has the Crown worked in partnership with taangata whaikaha Maaori?



Here **working in partnership** means working together to make:

- decisions
- things happen like services.



Claimants said the Crown has not given taangata whaikaha Maaori enough chances to have a say about the:

- health system
- disability system.



This includes having a say about what services they get.



Claimants said decisions need to be made together by:

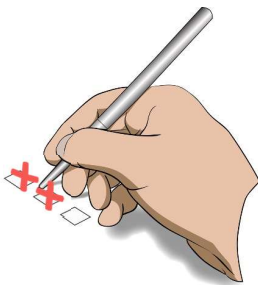
- the Crown

and

- taangata whaikaha Maaori.



Claimants said partnership with taangata whaikaha Maaori is important so health outcomes can get better.



Claimants said not having enough ways of doing good partnership has caused bad health outcomes for taangata whaikaha Maaori.



For example there has not been enough partnership in making **eligibility criteria**.

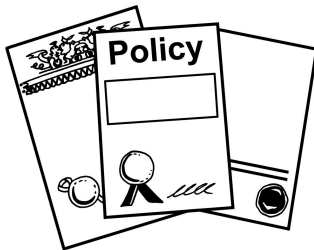


Here **eligibility criteria** are rules about who can use a health service.

Claimants want to have a say in the design of:



- **policies**
- services.



Here **policies** are the rules / laws a government makes.



This is so they can:

- make good changes to the disability system
- **monitor** what is going on.



Monitor means checking if:

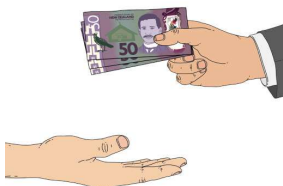
- things are working
- need to be changed.



Claimants said the ways the Crown talks with taangata whaikaha Māori about disability policy are not good enough.



Claimants said taangata whaikaha Māori need good support to take part in making policy.



That support should include things like:

- getting paid
- **resources.**



Resources means things like:

- time
- information
- people to support the work.



The Crown said Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People wants to meet its Te Tiriti / Treaty obligations.



Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People will do this by working with Māori to:

- change the disability system
- get fair outcomes for taangata whaikaha Māori.





The Crown gave evidence that it had partnered with taangata whaikaha Maaori when working on the **New Zealand Disability Strategy**.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** is a group of plans that tells the Government how to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The Easy Read New Zealand Disability Strategy can be read here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4kbthc62>



The Crown said taangata whaikaha Maaori who worked on the New Zealand Disability Strategy were part of groups like:



- the Disabled People's Organisations Coalition / DPO



- the **New Zealand Disability Strategy Revision Reference Group**



- people in the community who gave feedback / their thoughts.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy Revision Reference Group** was a group of 12 people who supported making the New Zealand Disability Strategy by giving:

- advice
- information.





Claimants said strategies / plans talk about:

- taangata whaikaha Maaori being part of making decisions
- Te Tiriti / The Treaty.



Claimants said these strategies / plans:



- mostly talk about hopes for the future



- do not go far enough.



Claimants said there should be a partnership with taangata whaikaha Maaori that is guided by Te Tiriti / The Treaty.



Claimants said taangata whaikaha Maaori are also left out of decisions that affect them like decisions about changes to the disability system.



Changes to the disability system can make people feel:

- confused
- upset
- like they are not in control of their life.



We think it is a good thing that Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People wants to partner with taangata whaikaha Maaori to:

- change the disability system
- make outcomes better.





We do not see enough evidence this is happening.



We think the Crown has not made a big enough place for taangata whaikaha Maaori to take part in the design of the disability system.



It is important the Crown sets up partnership with taangata whaikaha Maaori to design a disability system that:

- lasts for a long time
- has enough resources.



Do taangata whaikaha Maaori have enough chances to take part in making decisions?



Disabled people say:

Nothing about us without us.



This means good **representation** for disabled people is very important.



Representation means people being part of something by:

- speaking up
- talking about what they know
- taking part in making decisions.





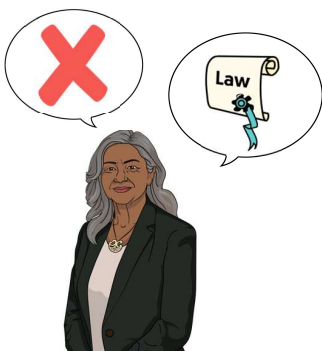
Claimants said it is very important that taangata whaikaha Maaori have good representation in all parts of the:

- health **sector**
- disability sector.

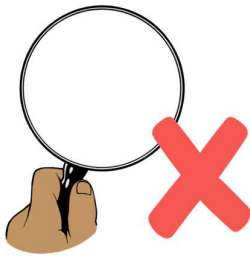


Here **sector** means all the parts of an industry / kind of job like:

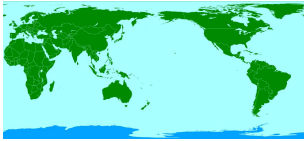
- the people who do the work
- organisations
- government agencies.



Claimants said there is no law that says taangata whaikaha Maaori must be part of making decisions in the health sector.



Taangata whaikaha Maaori are also not part of **international monitoring**.



International monitoring means working with groups from other countries to watch what is going on.



Claimants talked about how taangata whaikaha Maaori:

- are not represented on the **Health New Zealand Board**
- were not represented on the health board of **Te Aka Whai Ora** when it was running.



The **Health New Zealand Board** is the group that manages / runs Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.



Te Aka Whai Ora was a government agency that looked after Māori health policies.

Te Aka Whai Ora was closed in 2024.



Claimants also said having Māori groups that make decisions does not mean taangata whaikaha Māori:

- are represented in the groups
- have enough resources to do their work in the groups.



The Crown gave us evidence about different ways taangata whaikaha Maaori are represented in making decisions in the:

- health system
- disability system.



The evidence showed us that representation in **advisory groups** does not always mean taangata whaikaha Maaori can take part well.



Here an **advisory group** gives advice to the Crown about something they know a lot about.



Claimants said there are big **barriers** that can stop what taangata whaikaha Maaori know from being included in making decisions.

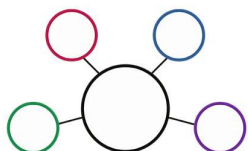


A **barrier** is something that can make it harder or impossible for you to do something.



We found the Crown has not given taangata whaikaha Maaori enough chances to be part of making decisions in the disability system through:

- advisory groups
- **governance structures.**



Governance means all the ways an organisation is run.



Governance structures means things that are set up to support the governance like boards.



We think it is very important that taangata whaikaha Maaori are supported to take part in groups that make decisions.



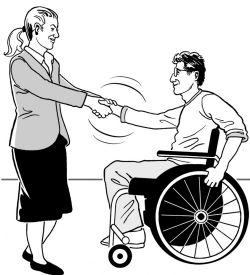
This includes paying them money to be part of the groups.

Tribunal findings



The Crown has an obligation through Te Tiriti / The Treaty to:

- **consult** with taangata whaikaha Maaori
- partner with taangata whaikaha Maaori.



Here **consult** means to ask what people think before making a decision.



The Crown has a very strong duty to protect taangata whaikaha Maaori:

- health
- **wellbeing.**



Wellbeing means things like:

- how we feel about ourselves
- looking after our bodies
- getting support when we are upset.

The Crown also has a very strong duty to reduce big health disparities / differences between:

- taangata whaikaha Maaori

and

- disabled people who are not Maaori.

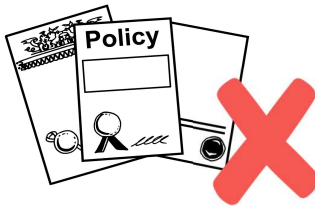
The Crown can do this by making good disability policy.



We found the Crown has failed over a long time to partner with taangata whaikaha Maaori to:



- design the disability system
- include services for taangata whaikaha Maaori



- come up with disability:



- policy
- strategies
- plans.



Evidence tells us that the Crown has not made enough ways for taangata whaikaha Maaori to be:

- a formal / official part of designing the disability system
- part of making decisions through:
 - advisory groups
 - governance structures.



This is **in breach** of the **principle** of partnership.



Here **in breach** means:

- rules have not been followed
- things have not been done like they were promised.



Here **principles** are ideas / beliefs that tell people:

- about what Te Tiriti / The Treaty means to people now
- the obligations the Government has to Maaori.



The principles come from the words of Te Tiriti / The Treaty.



We think it is a good thing that Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People wants to partner with taangata whaikaha Maaori to:

- change the disability system
- get better outcomes.





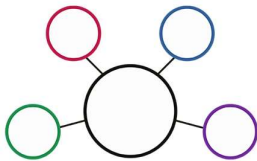
The duty of the Crown should not rely on the **good will** of people who work in Government.



Good will means people choosing to do the right things because they want to.



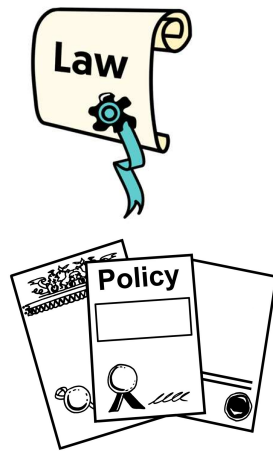
Maaori should be part of making decisions about policy that affect their communities.



Formal / official mechanisms must be put in place that say taangata whaikaha Maaori must be part of decision making.



This is so they share power in a responsible way.



This should be done through:

- government legislation / laws
- policies.



Whaikaha needs to do more work to make sure the Crown meets its Te Tiriti / Treaty obligations.



Good partnership must be put into the whole disability system.



Without formal / official mechanisms for partnership Whaikaha may not always be **culturally appropriate**.



Here **culturally appropriate** means something fits with Māori:

- **culture**
- **values**
- **ways of doing things.**

Culture is a way of:

- **thinking that a group shares**
- **doing things as a group.**

Good partnership will make it more likely that Whaikaha can be culturally appropriate.



This information has been written by the Waitangi Tribunal.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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