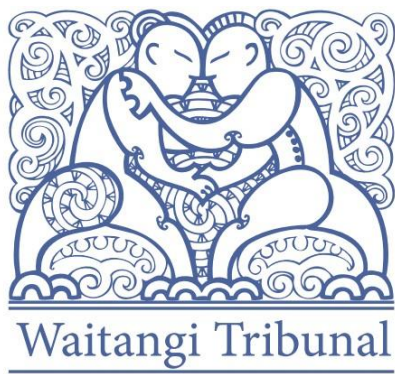




Waitangi Tribunal

Hauwhaikaha Report:

Chapter 13 – Kaapoo Maaori

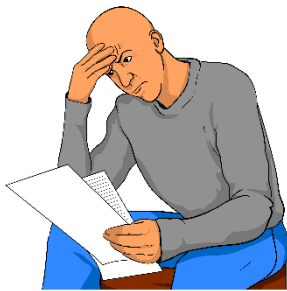


Published: September 2026

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

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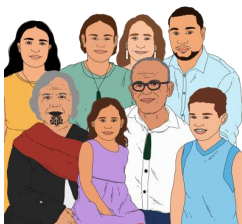
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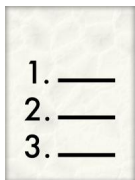
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About this Easy Read



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



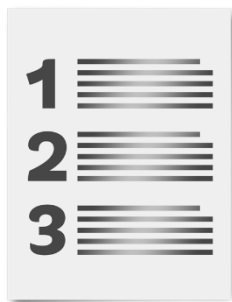
More information about the **Waitangi Tribunal** is on **pages 14 to 15**.



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



This Easy Read is a **summary** of **Chapter 13 – Kaapoo Maaori** in the **Hauwhaikaha Report**.



A summary:

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



Kaapoo Maaori means Maaori who are:

- blind
- deafblind
- low-vision.



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.**

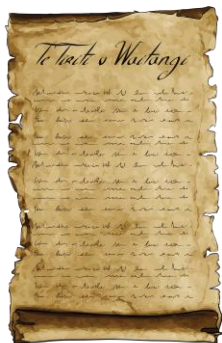


Outcomes means how things turn out for people in life.

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

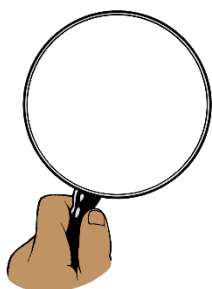


In this document the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** will be called **the inquiry**.



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 12 to 13**.



In this document where you see the words **taangata whaikaha Māori** this means Māori 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.

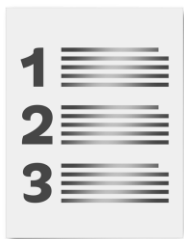


You can read the full Hauwhaikaha Report at this website:

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha



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

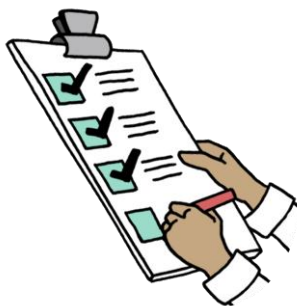


There are summaries of each chapter if you do not want to read the full Hauwhaikaha Report.



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?



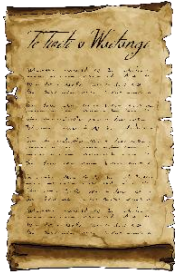
Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi:

- 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 broke 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.

History of Kaapoo Maaori



It is important to know the **historical context** for Kaapoo Maaori claimants.



Here **historical context** means what has happened in the past that affects things now.



This is because what happened in the past is important to understanding what the claimants think about the needs of Kaapoo Maaori now.



The Jubilee Institute for the Blind

The Jubilee Institute for the Blind was set up in Auckland in 1890 as a **residential school**.



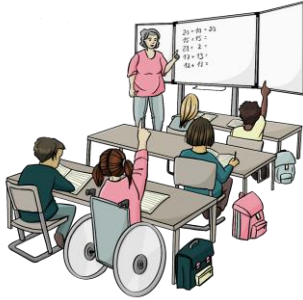
Here a **residential school** was a school for the blind:

- where people lived
- that had staff to care for people
- that trained blind / low vision people to work.



In this document the Jubilee Institute for the blind will be called **Jubilee Institute**.

Jubilee Institute is now called
Blind Low Vision NZ.



Jubilee Institute was meant to
support the visually impaired to:

- learn new skills
- gain **independence**.



Independence means being able to
do things yourself.



Researchers have found that people
who lived at Jubilee Institute became
dependent on the Jubilee Institute.



Dependent means needing
someone to do everything for you.



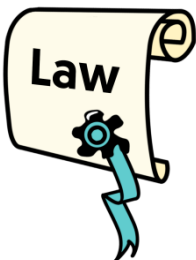
Jubilee Institute also relied on the work the people living there were doing.



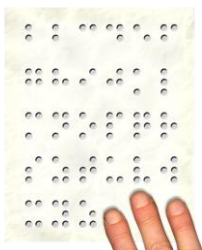
Kaapoo Maaori often lived with their communities on marae before the Jubilee Institute began.



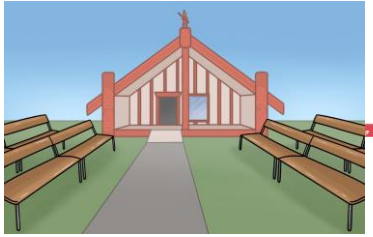
Children with visual impairment had to go to school under Aotearoa New Zealand **law**.



Law means the rules of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Jubilee Institute was the only place that offered education for children with visual impairment.



This made it hard for parents of Kaapoo Maaori because they:



- did not have much choice on where to send their children to school
- often had to move:
 - closer to the school
 - away from whaanau / family.



Researchers found that when Kaapoo Maaori were taken away from their homes / **cultural environments** they experienced:

- **marginalisation**
- **discrimination.**



A **cultural environment** is where someone experiences their **culture** in a group of people with the same:

- culture
- language.



Culture is a way of:

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



Marginalisation means:

- treating someone as not important
- pushing them out of groups
- not letting them be part of decision making.





Discrimination is when people are treated unfairly because of things like:

- their language
- their culture
- being disabled.



Kaapoo Maaori experienced the same bad things as blind / low vision people who are not Maaori.

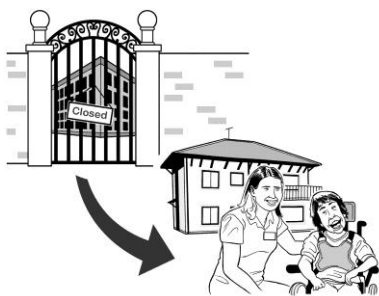


The Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act

The Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act became law in 1975.



This moved Aotearoa New Zealand towards **deinstitutionalisation**.

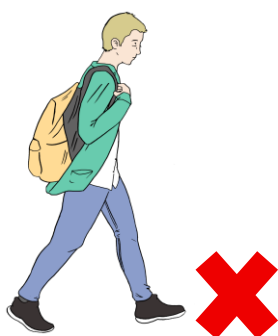


Deinstitutionalisation is when people are moved out of large **institutions** into **community-based care**.



Institutions are places where:

- many disabled people live together
- there are staff to care for people
- disabled people cannot choose to leave.



Community-based care is care that is provided to a disabled person:

- in their home
- in their local community.



Claimants said moving people who had been living in institutions into homes in the community was hard.



Ngaati Kaapoo was created in 1983 because of Kaapoo Maaori experiencing:

- marginalisation
- discrimination.



Ngaati Kaapoo was created to **advocate** for Kaapoo Maaori issues.



Advocate means to speak up for someone else.

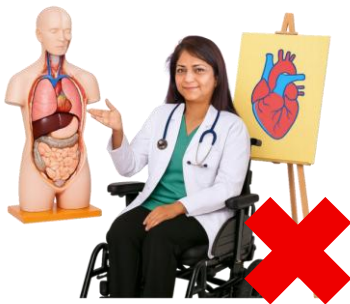


Ngaati Kaapoo is now called Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa.

The needs of Kaapoo Maaori and their whaanau



Claimants said the health and disability needs of Kaapoo Maaori are connected to the **social determinants** of health.



Social determinants are all the things that:

- are not medical

but

- affect health outcomes.





The social determinants of health are:

- where people live
- how much money people have
- access to education
- access to a job
- access to transport / how people get around.



This inquiry does not cover issues that are not part of the health and disability system.



Other issues will be covered in other **Waitangi Tribunal kaupapa** inquiries.



Waitangi Tribunal kaupapa

inquiries deal with nationally important issues affecting Maaori as a whole.

They are not specific to any district.



We do talk about the things that are important for the needs of Kaapoo Maaori in this inquiry.



These may be things that will be covered in other inquiries.



This is to explain what the claimants think about the needs of Kaapoo Maaori.

Socioeconomic barriers



Socioeconomics is a way of grouping people together based on:

- how much money they make
- what level of education they have
- the kind of work they do.



People in lower socioeconomic groups are more likely to experience **socioeconomic barriers** because they have:

- less money
- not had much education
- jobs that do not pay well.





Socioeconomic barriers are things that make it harder for people to have good:

- resources / things they need
- opportunities / chances to do things.



Not having enough of the things you need to live like money is called living in poverty.



The claimants said the Crown has failed to do enough good work on the **disproportionate** effects of poverty on:

- Kaapoo Maaori
- whaanau / family of Kaapoo Maaori.





Disproportionate means a group of people is affected by something more than other groups.



The claimants said Paakehaa / non Maaori usually needed support because of their impairment like:

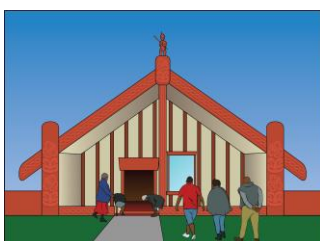
- rehabilitation / learning to do things again after being sick
- mobility / moving around.



The claimants said the needs of Kaapoo Maaori are different because Kaapoo Maaori are more likely to be living:



- in poverty
- away from their:



- whaanau / family
- marae support networks.

Safe and good housing



The claimants said that not having good places to live made health outcomes worse for:

- Kaapoo Maaori
- whaanau / family of Kaapoo Maaori.



Claimants spoke a lot about their experiences of not having good places to live.

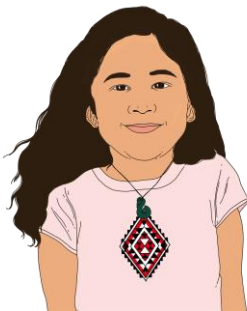
Better access to health and disability services



The claimants said there needs to be better access to health services.



The claimants said the Maaori Disability Statistical Report 2019 backed up what they said.



The Maaori Disability Statistical Report 2019 looked at different kinds of health appointment information over 10 years for blind / low vision:

- tamariki Maaori
- non-Maaori children.





The Maaori Disability Statistical Report 2019 found that tamariki Maaori went to **District Health Board / DHB** eye clinics less often than non-Maaori children.



A **District Health Board / DHB** was a group that ran the public health service for an area of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Government stopped having DHBs in 2022.

Access to education



Claimants said mainstream schools do not work well for Kaapoo Maaori children.



Mainstream schools means the schools that most children go to.



Claimants also said Kaapoo Maaori children need support to:

- take part in school life
- share their ideas at school.



Claimants gave evidence about young Kaapoo Maaori who had not got the education support they needed.



This included young Kaapoo Maaori who:

- missed out on support at school
- had to wait a long time to get **essential equipment**.



Here **essential equipment** means the things a child with a disability needs to be able to go to school.

Better whaanau and cultural connections



Some Kaapoo Maaori moved to bigger towns / cities so they could go to a **specialist school**.



A **specialist school** is a school for students who:

- have high support needs
- need to be taught in a different way to how mainstream schools teach.



When Kaapoo Maaori moved away they often lost support from their whaanau / family.



Having less support from
whaanau / family made life harder for
Kaapoo Maaori.



For example whaanau were less able
to take Kaapoo Maaori to
appointments.



This meant Kaapoo Maaori had to
pay more to get to their appointments
in a different way like taking a taxi.



This made it harder to pay for:

- medical care
- health services in towns / cities.



Chances to get a job



Many taangata whaikaha
Maaori / disabled Maaori have a hard
time getting **meaningful work**.



Meaningful work means work that:

- matters to the person
- uses the skills they have
- is good for them.



Kaapoo Maaori also have a hard time
getting meaningful work.



Claimants said **employment data** shows a big difference between:

- Kaapoo Maaori
- blind / low vision non-Maaori.



Employment data is information about how many people from different groups have jobs.



The claimants said discrimination against taangata whaikaha Maaori is made worse by **Crown service contracts**.



Crown service contracts are agreements companies have with the Government to provide services.



The claimants said Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa service contracts do not include **reasonable accommodations**.



Reasonable accommodations means things that disabled people need to be able to do their jobs well.

Care for pakeke / older Kaapoo Maaori



Claimants said support for pakeke Kaapoo Maaori is becoming a bigger issue.



Some pakeke have eye conditions that:

- happen more often as people get older
- get worse over time.



These eye conditions are things like:

- **macular degeneration**
- **cataracts.**



Macular degeneration is an eye condition that can make it hard to see things clearly.



Cataracts are cloudy areas in the eye that can make it hard to see.



Pakeke Kaapoo Maaori need support to make sure they have:

- good housing
- access to services.



Claimants said Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa needs enough **resources** to provide advocacy support services.



Resources means things an organisation needs to do its work like:

- money
- staff
- time.

Actions asked for by claimants



Claimants said the Crown has tried to improve outcomes for Kaapoo Maaori in:

- health
- education
- work
- money
- social settings like spending time with people.



The claimants said a lot more needs to be done.



Claimants said the Crown needs to understand that there are different needs for:

- taangata whaikaha Maaori
- non-Maaori disabled people.



This means they may need different support.



The claimants said the Crown should support services that are designed by Maaori for Maaori.



They said these services need enough resources to do their work.



The claimants also said there needs to be clear information about how much money is being used for:

- Kaapoo Maaori health services
- Kaapoo Maaori disability services
- taangata whaikaha Maaori health services
- taangata whaikaha Maaori disability services.



The claimants said Maaori health and disability service providers also need enough resources to do their work.

Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa



Claimants said there are big **barriers** for Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa.



Barriers means things that make it hard or impossible to do something.



The claimants said these barriers make it hard for Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa to give good services to Kaapoo Maaori.



The claimants said 1 big barrier is not enough funding from the Crown.



The claimants also gave evidence that Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa has not been included enough in designing:

- health **policies**
- disability policies
- health services
- disability services.



Policies means plans about how things should work.



The Crown gave evidence that Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa has been:

- part of some activities
- funded to take part in some activities.





The Crown also said it plans to set up a **formal process** with Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa.



A **formal process** means an official way to work together.



The Crown said this process would support them to agree on:

- things they both find important
- a **work programme**.



A **work programme** is a plan for work that needs to be done.



Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People has also talked with Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa.





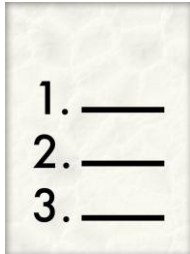
They talked about how to:

- make their relationship stronger
- get **equitable outcomes** for:
 - Kaapoo Maaori
 - whaanau / family of Kaapoo Maaori.



Equitable outcomes means fair results for people.

Tribunal findings



We looked at 3 **principles** that are important for the issues talked about by the claimants.



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.



The 3 principles were:

- **active protection**
- **options**
- **tino rangatiratanga.**



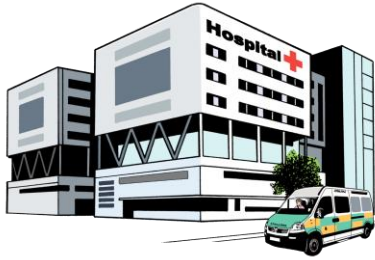
Here **active protection** means the Crown has to protect things that are important to Maaori.



Here **options** means having a choice of what to do.



Tino rangatiratanga means Maaori getting to make their own decisions.



The principle of active protection says the Crown must make sure Maaori have good access to:

- mainstream health services
- culturally appropriate services / services that respect Maaori culture.



The principle of options says the Crown has to make sure Maaori can choose what services they want to use by:

- supporting both options
- resourcing both options.



We found the Crown does not give enough money to kaupapa Maaori health and disability providers.



These providers need enough money to keep giving culturally appropriate services to taangata whaikaha Māori.



Providers not being funded well makes it harder for taangata whaikaha Māori to:

- get culturally appropriate care
- have their needs met.



This is **in breach** of the principles of:

- active protection
- options.





Here **in breach** means:

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



We found these breaches were also true in how the Crown has worked with Kaapoo Maaori Aotearoa.



We also found the Crown has not made good contracts with kaupapa Maaori providers that would make sure they could meet the:

- health needs of Kaapoo Maaori
- cultural needs of Kaapoo Maaori.



This means there are less options for Kaapoo Maaori.



It also means Kaapoo Maaori may not get the best care.



This breaches the principles of:

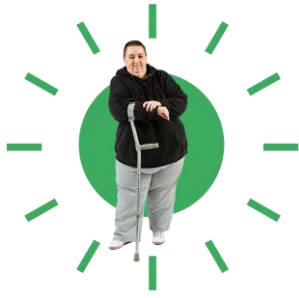
- active protection
- options.



We found that the current disability system is still mostly designed by the Crown.

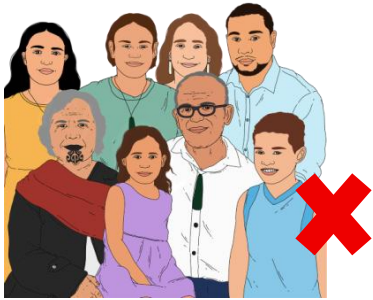


This system is about **individualised models of support**.



Here **individualised models of support** means support that:

- is only about the disabled person
- does not include their whaanau / family.



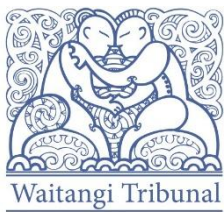
This model stops Kaapoo Maaori from:

- making choices as a group
- having ways of working with disability that work for Maaori.



This is in breach of the principle of tino rangatiratanga.





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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