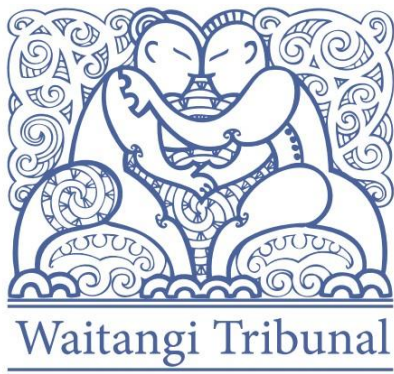




Waitangi Tribunal

Hauwhaikaha Report:

Chapter 14 – Taangata Turi

Part 2

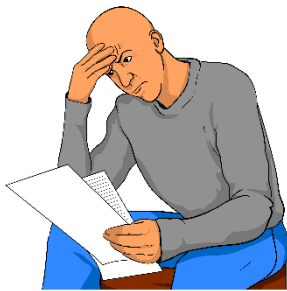


Published: September 2026

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.





The information in this document may upset some people when they are reading it.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whaanau / family
- friends.



You can also contact Need to Talk by:

- calling 1737
- texting 1737



It does not cost any money to call / text 1737.

What you will find in here

Page number:



About this Easy Read5



What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi /
The Treaty of Waitangi?12



What is the Waitangi Tribunal?14



Is there equitable access to deaf
services?16



Are there equitable outcomes?29



Are there enough Taangata Turi
leaders in the health and disability
system?.....36



Tribunal findings.....40

About this Easy Read



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



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



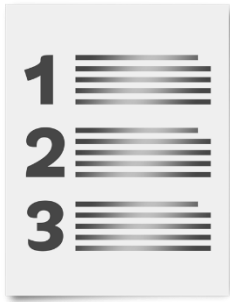
Where it says **we / us** this means the Waitangi Tribunal.



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



This Easy Read is part 2 of a **summary of Chapter 14: Taangata Turi** in the **Hauwhaikaha Report**.



A summary:

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



Taangata Turi means Maaori who are:

- Deaf / deaf
- hearing impaired / hard of hearing.



Where it says **NZSL** in this document this means **New Zealand Sign Language**.



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.

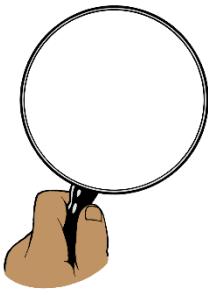


In this document the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** will be called **the inquiry**.



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**.



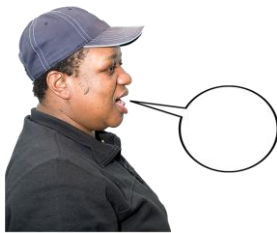
In this document where you see the words **taangata whaikaha Maaori** this means Maaori disabled people.



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

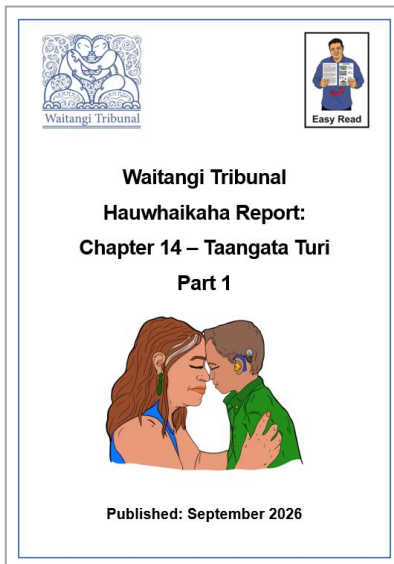
The Hauwhaikaha Report uses double letters instead of macrons.

Maaori / Māori

For example Maaori is the same as Māori.



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



You can read Part 1 of
Chapter 14: Taangata Turi here:

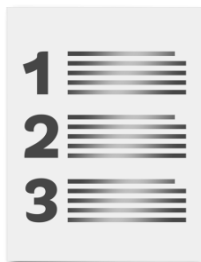
www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha-easy

You can read the full Hauwhaikaha
Report at this website:

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha



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

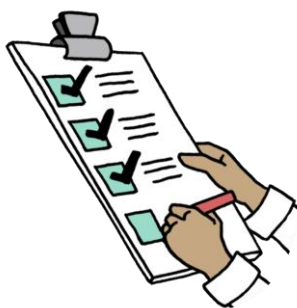


There are summaries of each chapter
if you do not want to read the full
Hauwhaikaha Report.

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?



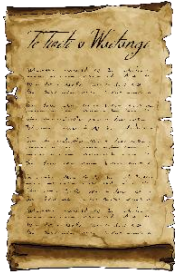
Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi:

- 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 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.

Is there equitable access to deaf services?



This section talks about **equitable** access for Taangata Turi in the:

- health system
- disability system.



Equitable means people:

- are treated fairly
- get what they need to live a good life
- get the same things as other people means everyone gets what they need to live a good life.



Number of Taangata Turi

Claimants said Māori are **over-represented** in the Deaf community.

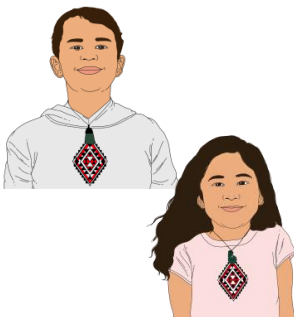


Here **over-represented** means Māori make up a bigger share of the Deaf community compared to their share of the population.



Compare means to look at things / groups to find out if they are:

- different
- the same.



For example there were a lot of Māori students at the:

- Kelston School
- Sumner School.



The best **data** at the time of the inquiry on Taangata Turi came from the:

- 2018 **Census**
- 2021 Deafness Notification Report.



Data is information that shows what groups of people:

- are doing
- need.



The **Census** counts:

- how many people there are in Aotearoa New Zealand
- how many dwellings / homes there are in Aotearoa New Zealand
- other things about living in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The Census showed there are about 4 thousand 6 hundred people who are deaf.



The Census showed about 23 thousand people use NZSL.



The Census showed about 1 thousand 4 hundred people use only NZSL.



The Census showed about 80 people use only:

- NZSL

and

- another language like te reo Maaori.



Claimants said there are limits to the data the Crown collects on Taangata Turi like the Census:

- is not **accessible** to many NZSL users
- might only be getting data from Taangata Turi who have more education.



Here **accessible** means something can be used by everybody including disabled people.



Claimants said the over-representation of Maaori in the Deaf community is from **inequitable** health outcomes.



Inequitable means people:

- are treated in unfair ways
- do not get what they need to live a good life
- do not get the same things as other people



Claimants said hearing loss can be caused by being very sick with something else like measles.



Maaori do not get as good access to health services as other people.



This means they have worse health outcomes.



Claimants said this in **breach** of Te Tiriti / The Treaty.



Here **in breach** means:

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



Screening and diagnosis

Claimants talked about information in the 2021 Deafness Notification Report to do with deaf:

- **screening**
- **diagnosis.**





Here **screening** means testing for things to do with health like hearing.

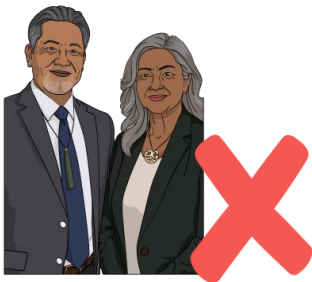


Here **diagnosis** means naming the medical condition someone has after doing tests.



The 2021 Deafness Notification Report said hearing screenings:

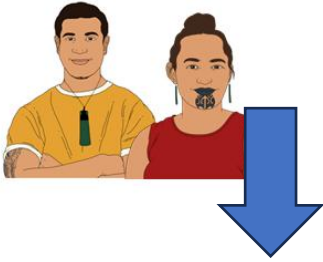
- happen for children more than adults
- are only done for children a few times
- are not done in ways that reduce inequities for Maaori.



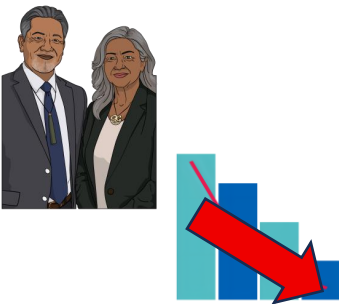
This means hearing loss might not be picked up quickly when it happens.



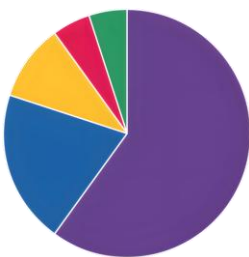
The 2021 Deafness Notification Report also said deaf services are not spread out evenly / fairly.



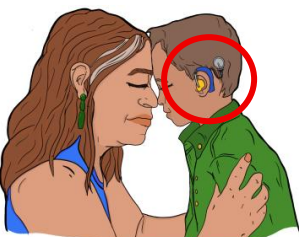
This means disparities / big differences in outcomes for Taangata Turi will be worse than for other people.



Evidence from the Crown showed Maaori use deaf services from Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People in a lower **proportion** to other people.



Proportion means a part of a number.



For example only about 13 **percent** of people who got cochlear implants in 2022 – 2023 were Maaori.



Percent is a number out of every 1 hundred.

For example 10 percent is 10 people out of 1 hundred.

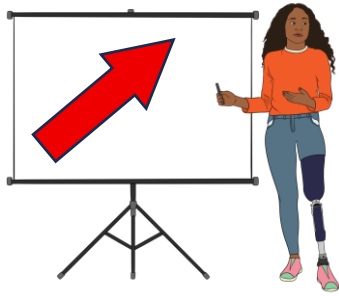


Claimants said Maaori not using deaf services as much as they could is because the services do not know how to support Maaori **culture** properly.



Culture is a way of:

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



The Crown said it:

- does not disagree with what claimants said
- thinks the number of Taangata Turi might be higher than the data says.



The large number of Taangata Turi is clear even with gaps in the data.

The exact number of Taangata Turi is not known.



The Crown has known there are a large number of Taangata Turi for a long time.



We are worried about how the gaps in data on Taangata Turi keep happening.

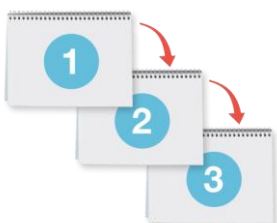


The 2021 Deafness Notification Report said:

- testing programmes are not equally good for everyone
- tamariki Maaori / Maaori children get diagnosed less quickly.



This means Taangata Turi do not get support fast enough.



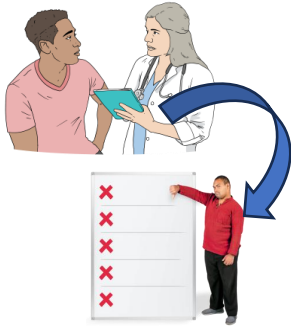
The Crown talked about things that could be done to make diagnosis quicker.



We think the Crown did not give enough evidence to show what they would do to make diagnosis quicker.



We think it is clear that disparities / big differences exist.



We think disparities / big differences are connected to inequities in the healthcare system.



The 2021 Deafness Notification Report said health services must:

- think about the different quality of healthcare Maaori get compared to people who are not Maaori
- stop blaming Maaori for their health problems
- think about how Paakehaa get treated better in health services.



Are there equitable outcomes?



Claimants said not having equal access to deaf services leads to health outcomes that are not good.



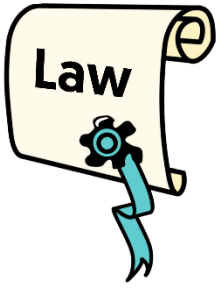
The claimants used research to show Taangata Turi:

- die sooner than other people
- have worse health
- do not have good:



- income / money
- housing
- education / school
- outcomes in the **criminal justice system**.





The **criminal justice system** has to do with the:

- **law**
- **police**
- **courts**

A **law** is a rule made by the Government that everybody must follow.

Witnesses talked about how it made their community feel when Taangata Turi died too young.



The Crown did not say anything about what the claimants had said about:

- inequitable health outcomes for Taangata Turi
- the research claimants had given to the inquiry.



Researchers looked at data from **Statistics New Zealand**.



Statistics New Zealand is the part of the Government that collects information about life in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Researchers compared outcomes for:

- Maaori

and

- people who are not Maaori.

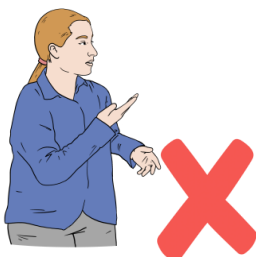


The researchers found many bad outcomes for Maaori hearing impaired who:

- use NZSL

and

- do not use NZSL.



The researchers found that Maaori hearing impaired who use NZSL die sooner than people who are not Maaori who are hearing impaired.



The researchers found that Maaori hearing impaired go to the emergency department more than people who are hearing impaired who are not Maaori.

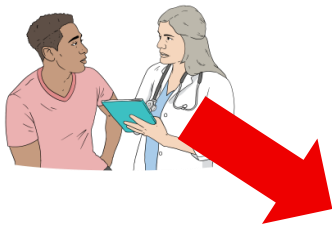


The researchers found that Maaori hearing impaired who do not use NZSL:

- stay in the hospital longer when they are sick
- are treated at the hospital for their **mental health** more often.



Mental health is how you think / feel in your mind.



The researchers found Maaori hearing impaired who use NZSL are less likely to be **registered** with a doctor.



Here **registered** means signing up to use a service like a doctor.



The evidence shows inequities between:

- Maaori hearing impaired

and

- people who are not Maaori who are hearing impaired.

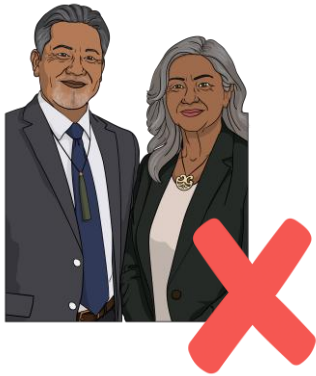


We are most concerned about the high **mortality rates**.



Mortality rates means data about at what age different groups of people die.

Are there enough Taangata Turi leaders in the health and disability system?



Claimants said there are not many Taangata Turi leaders in the:

- health system
- disability system.



For example Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People had only 1 Taangata Turi working for them.

This person was not a leader.



Claimants said Taangata Turi do not trust Crown agencies because of things the Crown has done in the past.



Claimants said **Te Roopuu Kaitiaki** is not enough to meet their needs because it:



- only gives advice to the NZSL Board
- only works on things to do with NZSL



- cannot make decisions.



Te Roopuu Kaitiaki is:

- led by Taangata Turi
- a group that gives advice to the NZSL Board.



Claimants said the Crown has failed to work on what Taangata Turi need.



The Crown said it understands:

- having Taangata Turi leaders is a very important thing to do
- there have been times when there have not been enough Turi Maaori on the NZSL Board.



The evidence says there are inequities:

- in health outcomes for Taangata Turi
- in using deaf services for Taangata Turi.



The Crown has not made deaf services with Taangata Turi in mind.



We think Te Roopuu Kaitiaki:

- is good for supporting NZSL for Taangata Turi

but

- is advisory only meaning it does not have the power to make decisions.



We think:

- having Maaori on the NZSL Board is a good thing

but

- Maaori are a minority / small number of people on the NZSL Board.



This shows there are not enough Taangata Turi leaders.

Tribunal findings



To come up with our findings we looked at Te Tiriti / The Treaty **principles** of:



- **active protection**
- **equity**
- **options**
- **partnership.**



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.

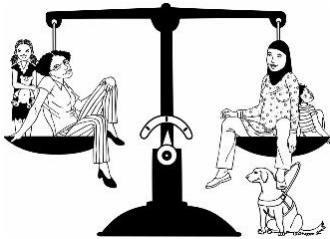


Here **active protection** means the Crown has to protect things that are important to Maaori.



Equity means taangata whaikaha
Maaori:

- are treated fairly:
- get what they need to live a good life
- get the same things as other people means everyone gets what they need to live a good life.



Here **options** mean the Crown
makes sure Maaori can choose:

- Maaori ways of doing things
- other ways of doing things

or

- both





Here **partnership** means the Crown and Maaori must work together:

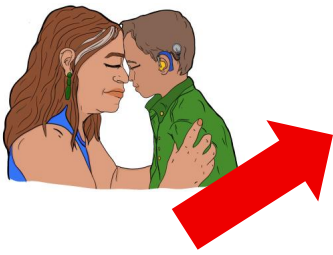
- in good faith / by being honest
- with **respect**
- by talking to each other in the right ways.



Here **respect** means to treat someone:

- with care
- like they are important.





Active protection

We found out Taangata Turi have:

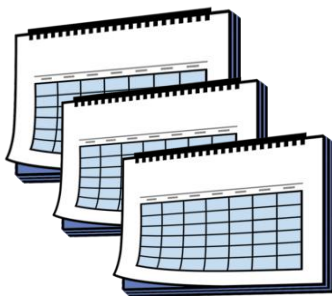
- more hearing loss compared to people who are not Maaori
- inequitable health outcomes compared to people who are not Maaori.



We find this is in breach of the principles of:

- active protection
- equity.





The Crown has an obligation to fix this problem:

- because it has been going on for a long time
- so that Taangata Turi can be treated more fairly.



We found the Crown has not supported Taangata Turi with enough services that support their culture.



We think the Crown should do things for Taangata Turi that support their culture in the right way.



We think it is very important that the Crown gets more NZSL **interpreters** for Taangata Turi.

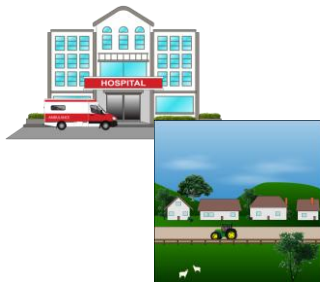


An **interpreter** is someone who supports people who do not use the same language to understand each other.



We are very worried about the big delays in getting NZSL interpreters for:

- emergencies
- in rural / out of town areas.



We find that the Crown is in breach of the principle of active protection.



Equity

Evidence shows there are big gaps in Taangata Turi using deaf services.



The Crown does not have enough information about what Taangata Turi need to make policies / rules.



We find this is in breach of the principle of equity.

Options



We find the Crown has not done enough to provide more **trilingual interpreters**.



Workforce means all the people who do the same kind of job.



Here **trilingual interpreters** means people who can:

- speak te reo Māori / the Māori language

- speak English

and

- use NZSL.



This means Māori cannot access their **taha Māori**.



Taha Māori means being able to:

- walk in both worlds
- choose what is the right thing to do.



We find this is in breach of the principle of options.



Evidence shows there is prejudice towards Taangata Turi by not having trilingual interpreters.



Evidence shows the Crown has not given enough funding for interpreters so Taangata Turi can take part in all aspects of tangihanga / funerals if they wish to.



This means whaanau / families cannot grieve / work through sad feelings in ways that meet their cultural needs.



We agree with claimants that this:

- **prejudices** Taangata Turi
- breaches the principle of options.

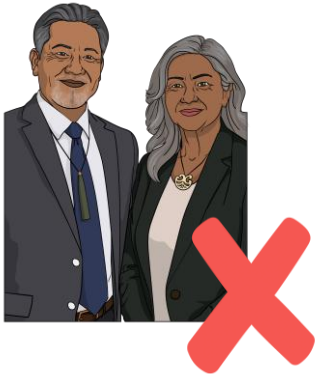


Here **prejudice** is a bad thing that happens because of something the Crown:

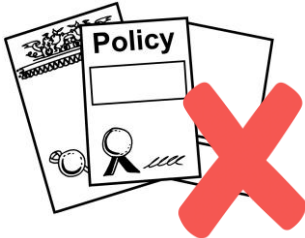
- did
- failed to do.

Partnership

We find Taangata Turi do not have enough:



- leaders in the:
 - health system
 - disability system
- say about policy / rules that have to do with them.



We think Te Roopuu Kaitiaki:

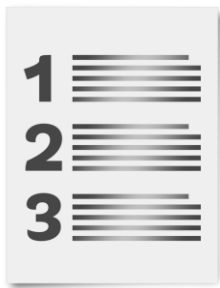


- is a good step towards working on what Taangata Turi need

but



- only works on NZSL.



Taangata Turi have a lot more needs that need to be taken care of in the:

- health system
- disability system.



We find this is in breach of the principle of partnership.



Evidence shows:

- Taangata Turi were included in making changes to the NZSL Act

but

- the changes were stopped without talking to Taangata Turi about it.

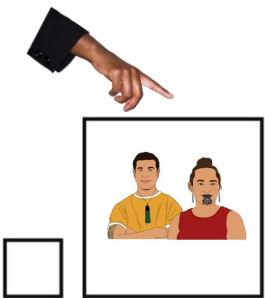




The Crown should talk to Taangata Turi about what they need.



We find this is in breach of the principle of partnership.



Taangata Turi:

- are a large number of people in the Deaf community
- have lots of different needs like trilingual interpreters.



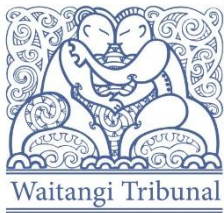
The NZSL Act does not talk about Taangata Turi as a community with its own:



- kind of language
- culture.



We find this is in breach of the principle of partnership.



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.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.



Make it Easy uses images from:



- Photosymbols
- Change Images
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- SGC Image Works
- T Wood
- Studio Rebeko
- Inga Kramer.