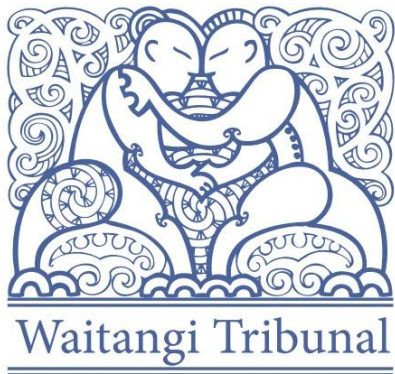




Waitangi Tribunal

Hauwhaikaha Report: Summary of chapters 1 to 4

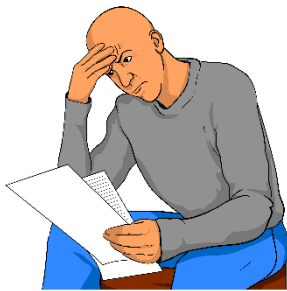


Published: September 2026

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:



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system looks like now25



Chapter 4: Te Tiriti / The Treaty and
disability31

About this Easy Read



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



More information about the **Waitangi Tribunal** is on **page 13**.



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



This Easy Read is a **summary** of **chapters 1 to 4** in the **Hauwhaikaha Report** including:



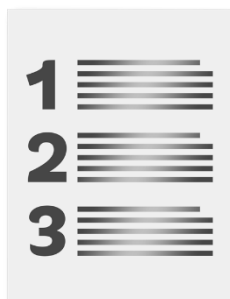
- the introduction
- what disability means in Aotearoa New Zealand



- what the disability system looks like now



- parts of **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi** that are important to the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry**.



A **summary**:

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



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 their lives.

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

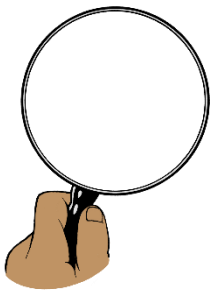


In this document the **Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry** will be called **the inquiry**.



Here **claim** is when 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 8 to 9**.



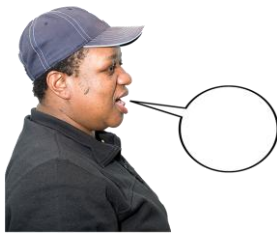
In this document where you see the words **taangata whaikaha Maaori** this means Maaori disabled people.



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

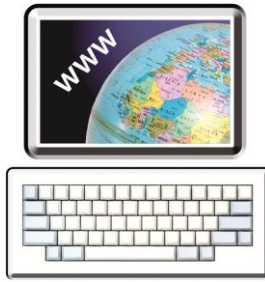
The Hauwhaikaha Report uses double letters instead of macrons.

Maaori / Māori

For example Maaori is the same as Māori.



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

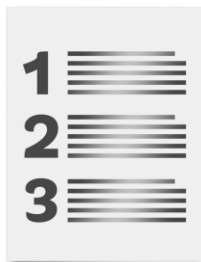


You can read the full Hauwhaikaha Report at this website:

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha



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

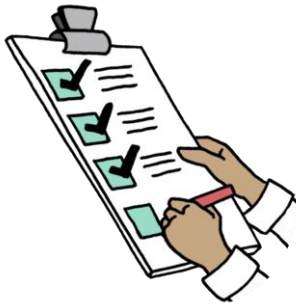


There are summaries of each chapter if you do not want to read the full Hauwhaikaha Report.



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

www.bit.ly/Hauwhaikaha-easy



The summaries of each chapter give 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?



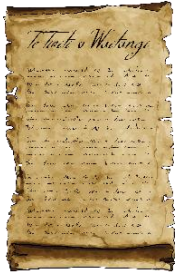
Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi:

- 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 to 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.



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

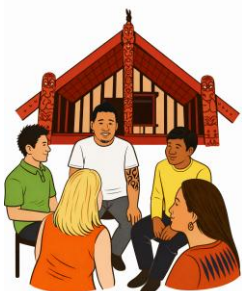
Chapter 1: Introduction



Background to the inquiry

We received claims from taangata whaikaha Maaori on behalf of:

- themselves
- their whaanau / families
- hapuu / communities
- iwi / tribes.



We also received claims from:

- health service providers
- disability support providers
- disability organisations who speak up for disabled people.





The claims were about:

- big problems in the disability system

and

- the lived experiences of people using the disability system.



We also got evidence from:

- the Crown
- **independent** experts
- researchers the Waitangi Tribunal asked to look into some things.



Here **independent** means a person who has their own opinions / ideas about something.



45 groups who made claims took part in the inquiry.



There were 11 hearings held at the Waitangi Tribunal for this part of the inquiry between:



- March 2022
- and
- December 2024.



Words to do with disability

People who made claims used the words taangata whaikaha a lot.

We agree the term is:



- empowering / about feeling in control of your life
- **mana enhancing.**



Mana is the spiritual life force / power that is found in all of the universe.



Having mana:

- means someone has a strong sense of confidence / knowledge about them
- might affect how other people see / think about them.



Mana enhancing means feeling more confident about your place in the world.

**taangata
whaikaha
Maaori**

In the Hauwhaikaha Report we use the term taangata whaikaha Maaori so people know the term means Maaori disabled people.



In the Hauwhaikaha Report the term taangata whaikaha Maaori includes:

- Kaapoo Maaori – Maaori who:

- are blind
- are deafblind
- are vision impaired
- have low vision



- Taangata Turi – Maaori who are:

- deaf
- hard of hearing.

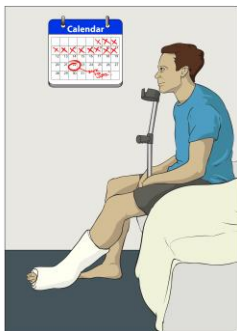


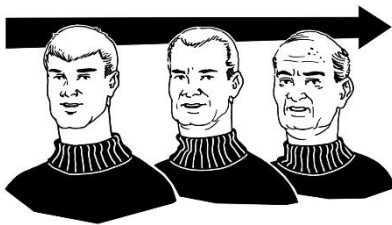
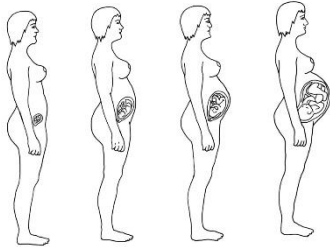


The term taangata whaikaha

Maaori also includes:

- Maaori with mobility issues / who cannot move around easily
- Maaori who know they have a disability but the Crown does not say they do
- Maaori with **fetal alcohol spectrum disorder / FASD**
- Maaori with a temporary disability / disability that only lasts for a short time
- Maaori who are disabled in other ways.





Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is also sometimes called **FASD**.

Fetal means a baby that is growing inside its pregnant mother.

FASD is a disability that lasts for the whole life of a person.

FASD happens sometimes when a growing baby is affected by alcohol before it is born.

FASD can affect the:

- brain
- body.

Chapter 2: What disability means in Aotearoa New Zealand



Chapter 2 talks about the history of:

- disability policy in Aotearoa New Zealand since **colonisation**.
- taangata whaikaha Maaori in te ao Maaori / the Maaori world before colonisation.



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



Colonisation is when a group of people from 1 country:

- set up home in another country
- take over the country from the people who already live there.

New Zealand was colonised by the British.

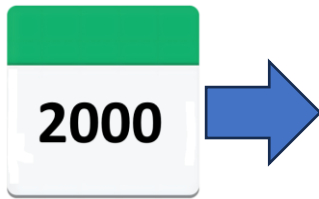
Chapter 2 talks about how Māori had ways of dealing with disability that put Māori at the centre of things.

Chapter 2 talks about:

- the disability **policies**
- how ideas about disability shaped policies.



The last part of Chapter 2 looks at the changes that have happened to the disability system in the **twenty-first century**.



The **twenty-first century** means the time that has happened since about the year 2000.



The last part of Chapter 2 includes looking at the big changes to the health system that happened while the inquiry was going on.

Chapter 3: What the disability system looks like now



Chapter 3 talks about the disability system as it was when inquiry hearings finished in December 2024.



Chapter 3 talks about the laws that make the disability system in Aotearoa New Zealand.



One of the most important parts of the disability system is the **Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022**.



The **Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022** put all the district health boards into 1 health service that covers the whole of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Chapter 3 also talks about the obligations Aotearoa New Zealand has that are set out in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.

It is also called the **UNCRPD**.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



The obligations include:

- the **Independent Monitoring Mechanism / IMM** which was started using the rules of the UNCRPD
- things that must be done for taangata whaikaha Maaori.



The **Independent Monitoring Mechanism / IMM** is a group that looks at what the Government is doing to make sure disabled people in New Zealand are getting their rights.



Chapter 3 then talks about what different Crown agencies do in the disability system.

These Crown agencies include:



- the Ministry of Health
- Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People
- Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand
- the Ministry of Social Development
- the Accident Compensation Corporation / ACC
- the Ministry of Education
- Ara Poutama Aotearoa – the Department of Corrections.



Each of these Crown agencies:

- has responsibility for different parts of the UNCRPD obligations
- has its own ways of working with people with disability like:
 - legislation / laws
 - strategies / plans
 - policies.



Chapter 3 also explains:

- who can get Disability Support Services / DSS
- how Disability Support Services / DSS can be used.

Disability Support Services





Chapter 3 also talks about strategies / plans the Crown uses when doing disability services.

Chapter 4: Te Tiriti / The Treaty and disability



Chapter 4 talks about the **principles** in Te Tiriti / The Treaty that are most important to the inquiry which are:

- tino rangatiratanga
- partnership
- active protection
- equity
- options
- good governance.





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.



Tino rangatiratanga

Chapter 4 talks about the principle of tino rangatiratanga is Maaori getting to make their own decisions.

Partnership



Chapter 4 talks about the principle of partnership between:

- the Crown

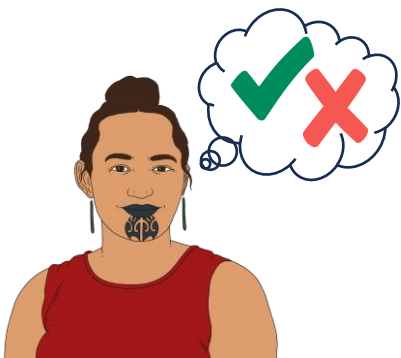
and

- Maaori.

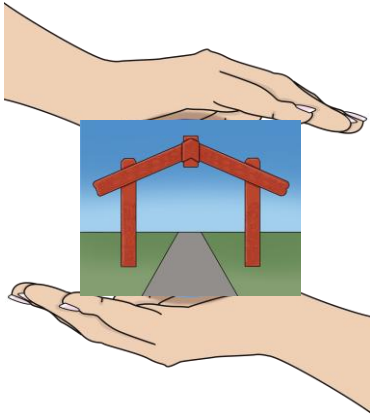


The partnership is about:

- working together in good ways
- knowing Maaori can choose how they do things
- the ways Maaori use tino rangatiratanga.



Active protection



Chapter 4 talks about active protection which means the Crown has to protect:

- things that are important to Maaori
- tino rangatiratanga.



Equity

Chapter 4 talks about the principle of **equity**.



Equity means taangata whaikaha Maori:

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



The principle of equity says the Crown must treat Maaori as fairly as other New Zealanders.



The principle of equity does not always mean treating everyone exactly the same.



The principle of equity is about the Crown:

- knowing about **inequity**
- doing something to fix it.

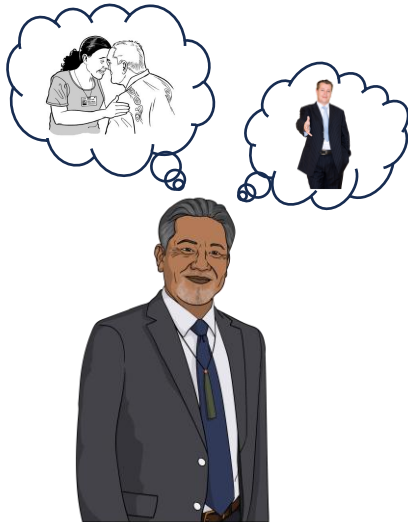


Inequity means people:

- 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.

Options

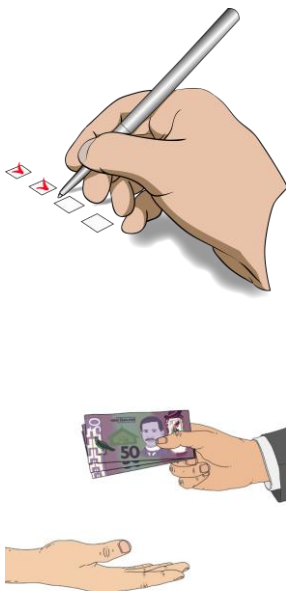
Chapter 4 talks about the principle which is about the Crown making sure Maaori can choose:



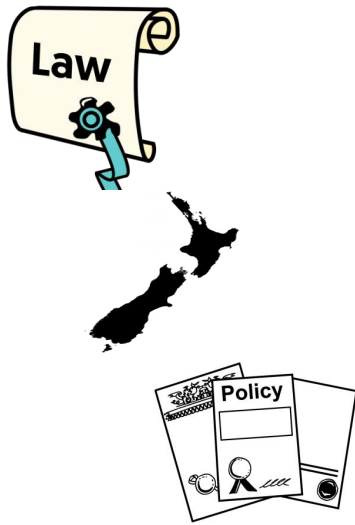
- Maaori ways of doing things
 - other ways of doing things
- or**
- both.

This means the Crown must make sure all options:

- are supported
- have resources / the things they need to work.



Good governance



Chapter 4 talks about the principle of **good governance** which means the Crown must:

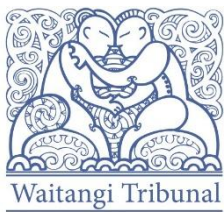
- follow its own laws
- make good policy / laws.



Governance means all the ways a government is run.



Good governance means running the Government in the best ways possible.



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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