

I TE RŌPU WHAKAMANA
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGIWAI 3310
WAI 682
WAI 1464/1546

KEI RARO I TE MANA o te ture o te Tiriti o Waitangi 1975

I TE TAKE O te pakirehua, Education Services and Outcomes
(Wai 3310)

Ā

I TE TAKE O he kēreme nā, Rewiti Paraone rātou ko Erima
Henare, ko Pita Tipene ko Waihoroi Shortland mō
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine hei mangai mō ngā uri
o Torongare me Hauhaua (Wai 682)

Ā

I TE TAKE O he kēreme nā Te Riwhi Whao Reti rātou ko Hau
Hereora, ko Romana Tarau, ko Karen Herbert, ko
Edward Cook, ko Pearl Reti hei mangai mō Te
Kapotai (Wai 1464/1546)

HE MANATU RŌIA

I tēnei rā, i te 20 o Tihema 2024

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

20 Dec 24

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

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Ngā rōia

Dr Season-Mary Downs
Chelsea Terei-Tipene
Heather Jamieson
Emma Jackson

TĒNĀ, E TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

Introduction

1. This Memorandum of Counsel is filed on behalf of Ngāti Hine (Wai 682) and Te Kapotai (Wai 1464/1546) and responds to her Honour Judge Mullins' directions dated 3 December 2024 directing that any further submissions outlining issues that should be prioritised in this inquiry be filed by 20 December 2024.¹

Priority matters

2. In counsels' previous memorandum, it was suggested that there may be Coalition Government policies that necessitate priority, such as the decisions to:
 - a) Cut funding to the Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori programme by \$30 million ("funding cut"); and
 - b) Restore balance to the Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories curriculum ("history curriculum changes").
3. Both of the decisions referred to above are current issues that the claimants believe will prejudice Māori in the education system.
4. The funding cut, announced on 26 September 2024, reallocated \$30 million in funding for Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori to instead fund new resources and supports aiming to lift maths achievement for students.²
5. Counsel recently received a response to an OIA request regarding the funding cut and believe that this decision was not made as part of a

¹ Wai 3310, #2.6.1, *He Pānui Whakahau a te Mana Whakahaere a Kaiwhakawā Mullins whai muri i te nohoanga – He Tumu Herenga Kōrero – me te Hui ā-Kaiwhakawā i te 11 o Noema 2024 – Memorandum-Directions of Presiding Officer Judge Mullins following the hearing – He Tumu Herenga Kōrero – and Judicial Conference of 22 November 2024* [3 Tihema 2024], at [15].

² <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/supercharging-schools-teach-maths>

Tiriti-compliant process, and that the process was rushed and alternative options were not thoroughly considered.

6. **Attached as Appendix A** is a document received as part of the OIA response, a chronology of events which includes:
 - a) 30 July 2024 – “[Minister Stanford’s] office asked that the Ministry immediately progress the partial reprioritisation of Te Ahu o te reo Māori funding”;
 - b) 31 July 2024 – “Ministry receives final Te Ahu evaluation report from independent evaluator”; and
 - c) 22 August 2024 – “The Ministry responded to a series of specific queries from the Minister about Te Ahu o te reo Māori, including how/where te reo Māori is supported across the national curricula (including via PLD and through the National Curriculum Refresh)”.
7. It is alarming that it appears the funding cut decision was made by the Minister before she was fully informed about the Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori programme.
8. The quality of both teaching and learning will suffer from the funding cut as the Te Ahu o Reo Māori programme was the only programme specifically focused on serving the education system.
9. The funding cut should be considered in the context of other policies being initiated by this Coalition Government that will have detrimental effects to the taonga that is te reo Māori, some of which were the focus of the Wai 3327 - Te Reo i te kāwanatanga ruku tātari ohotata - Te Reo in the Public Sector Urgent Inquiry.
10. The proposed history curriculum changes are a policy from the coalition agreement between National and ACT, which has been

endorsed by Cabinet as forming part of the basis on which the Government will operate.³

11. This policy is particularly concerning at a time where the Treaty Principles Bill is threatening to rewrite history to take away the rights of Māori. It is vital that Māori history is not overlooked or rewritten in an updated history curriculum.
12. If the Tribunal chose to inquire into the history curriculum changes in a priority inquiry, their report on this issue would be useful in guiding the development and implementation of the policy.

I TĒNEI RĀ, i Tūranganui-ā-Kiwa, te rā, 20 o Tīhema 2024

Four handwritten signatures in purple ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right, they appear to be: 'S Down', 'Chere', 'Heather', and 'Emma Jackson'.

Dr Season-Mary Downs/Chelsea Terei-Tipene/Heather Jamieson/Emma Jackson

Rōia mo Ngāti Hine me Te Kapotai

³ [National ACT Agreement.pdf](#), at 8.