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**KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE ROOPUU WHAKAMANA I TE  
TIRITI O WAITANGI**

**BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

**WAI 2575**

**WAI 2644**

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**IN THE MATTER OF** The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** The Health Services & Outcomes Kaupapa  
Inquiry (Wai 2575)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** a claim by Sir Edward Taihākurei Durie and  
Rangi Wade on behalf of the New Zealand  
Maaori Council (Wai 2644)

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**Closing submissions for Te Aka Whai Ora Hearing Week 2**

30 Mei 2025

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Waitangi Tribunal

**29 May 25**

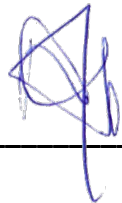
Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON

## **E TE KAIWHAKAWAA, TEENAA KOE**

1. This closing submission is on behalf of Wai 2644, the New Zealand Maaori Council, and the following claimants:
  - 1.1. Sir Taihaakurei (Eddie) Durie and Rangingangana Wade for the New Zealand Maaori Council; and
  - 1.2. Taipari Munro on behalf of Whatitiri Māori Reserves Trust; and
  - 1.3. Rangimaguta Easthope on behalf of Ngaatu Rangiteaaorere Koromatua Council; and
  - 1.4. Kereama Pene on behalf of the Kia Maia Ratana Orakei Committee; and
  - 1.5. Venerable Harvey Ruru on behalf of Te Tau Ihu District Maaori Council; and
  - 1.6. Hamuera Hodge on behalf of Tumahaurangi Māori Committee.
2. NZMC supports the closing submissions on behalf of Lady Moxon, that the Crown is producing no adequate alternatives, and that this lack of other options is prejudicial to Maaori and in breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and taking us back to where the health system was before the establishment of Te Aka Whai Ora.
3. NZMC says that the evidence from previous inquiries shows that more Maaori are likely to do better in terms of health care under programs that are designed and operated by Maaori health providers under the direction of an independent Maaori health entity, rather than under the existing system. Related to that is the extensive bureaucracy within the current organisation and its domination by individuals with no experience in working with Maaori communities.

4. The claimants submitted the current evidence to show that the Crown did not have alternative plans to manage Maaori Health at the time of the disestablishment, reinforcing the previous findings that the disestablishment process did not meet good governance standards.
5. NZMC submits that in these circumstances, the current government is unlikely to change its position, no matter what is said and that Maaori will need to continue to bear the burden of a health system that does not work well for them, with ongoing poor outcomes. In these circumstances, the NZMC urges the Tribunal and all Maaori to continue the call for greater Maaori management of Maaori health through a separate health authority.

**Dated at Wellington this 30 Mei 2025**



Donna Hall



Kieran Hewett

**Woodward Law.**

Counsel for NZMC.