

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL  
KEI MUA I TE TARAIPUUNARA

Wai 2700  
Wai 2750

UNDER

The Treaty of Waitangi  
Act 1975

CONCERNING

The Mana Wāhine  
Kaupapa Inquiry

AND

Nga Kairauhii Nannies  
Against P Claim (Wai  
2655)

---

**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF LOVEY MATARITA EDWARDS**

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

---

**RECEIVED**

Waitangi Tribunal

**28 Nov 25**

Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON

---

**Counsel:**

Bryce Lyall  
Kōkiri Chambers  
PO Box 60649  
Titirangi  
Auckland 0642  
022 658 1895  
Bryce@kokirichambers.nz



Maithili Sreen & Hannah Swedlund  
Employed Barristers  
Maithili@brycelyall.com & Hannah@brycelyall.com

## **Introduction**

1. My name is Lovey Matarita Edwards and I am giving this evidence on behalf of the Nga Kairauhii Nannies Against P claim to the Waitangi Tribunal.
2. My husband and I have 16 moko, and 34 moko tuarua. We were married for 56 years until he passed away in November 2016. While he was alive, I always felt safe. But since his passing, I've had to face the challenges the drug 'P' has brought into our whānau and our community.
3. I feel fortunate to have been part of the Nannies Against P kaupapa since it began. But the Crown has failed to recognise or support our efforts so far. We have not been able to exercise our right to protect and care for ourselves and our whānau in ways grounded in our tikanga. We ask the Tribunal to help restore that rangatiratanga by ensuring Crown funds and resources our group to set up a safe house, and by recognising the leadership already being shown by our rōpū.
4. Below, I share my journey with Nannies Against P, what I have witnessed, how I became involved with the rōpū, and why this kaupapa has become so important to us. I want the Tribunal to understand the strength of our rōpū, the mamae we carry, and the support we need to build a safe house for our nannies so we can truly look after our nannies and moko.

## **My grandson's addiction**

5. We had just buried my late husband when my grandson rang me saying he wanted to move in with me. He told me I needed a mate. At this time in his life, he was either living in his truck or with one relative or another. He had parted with the mother of his three children because of his addiction to synthetics. I told him a firm 'no' because I didn't want him in my house. In the past, he had stolen money from me—I was sleeping in one room and he took the money right out of my wallet. My grandson was very persistent on the phone. Then, he started getting agitated and used abusive words towards me. My daughter was with me so I passed

the phone over to her. But he started abusing her too. She eventually told him to leave nanny alone and to never come near me. That was a frightening experience, from a grandson to a grandmother.

6. After that, he contacted me on and off for things like blankets and other small items. He would come around to the house, but I wouldn't let him in. I felt unsafe with him. All I wanted was an apology from my moko, but he didn't want to say sorry.
7. Unfortunately, he has not changed one bit this whole time. Even though he spent some time in rehab, he went back to the drugs. I would like to see a local rehabilitation centre for those who want to heal from P. This would be one that is out of town, perhaps Waimarama as we have land there that I think would be a suitable place. The addicts should not be allowed out, they should be helped and supported throughout their journey to get well. Apparently, the brain doesn't become like a normal brain until after two years of staying off P so they need long-term help.
8. I kept what was happening with my moko to myself. I didn't share it with anyone until the Nga Kairauhii Trust meeting in 2017.

#### **Nga Kairauhii Trust and Nannies Against P**

9. The Nga Kairauhii Trust represents a cluster of six marae in and around Hastings. I am one of the trustees. Our name, Nga Kairauhii, means the caregivers. The name was given to us because it reflects our kaupapa. The idea behind the trust was to get health issues back to the marae because our koro didn't want to go to the doctors.
10. Then in 2017, at one of our Nga Kairauhii Trust meetings, one of the nannies, Anne, shared her experience with the drug 'P'. The Tribunal has a copy of Anne's kōrero as part of Ruku Areta Te Huia's evidence. I couldn't believe something like that could happen to someone. But here was this elderly lady (we were all younger than her) telling us every detail of what she had been going through, using words I never imagined would come out of her mouth. The trustees were flabbergasted. We just

sat there listening to what she had to say. When she was finished, we all got up and went to awahi her.

11. After Anne, I spoke and shared my story. Once I finished, the next nanny stood up. We went around the whole table and it turned out we all had something to say. Each story was just as bad as the previous one. So, our Nga Kairauhii Trust decided to put all other business on hold, and formed a campaign called Nannies Against P. The Hastings District councilor, Bayden Barber, gave us our name. Although I didn't like the word 'P', as soon as we got that name, it seemed like everyone wanted to share their story with us.
12. We decided to hold three hui at our marae to discuss the extent of the problems caused by this drug. We wanted to create a safe place for the elderly to speak openly, and ensure they were supported and guided towards the right services and people who could help.
13. We held the first hui at Omahu marae. We were only expecting about 10 people, but around 80 showed up. Service providers turned up at the hui too, including lawyers. It was only meant to be six of us Nga Kairauhii trustees speaking, but we had the whole floor speaking. Everyone stood up one by one and shared what had happened to them. It was powerful, and something different for us nannies as we had never heard such stories before.
14. At Matahiwi, which is the marae that I represent, around 250 people turned up. It was a great response. People just got up and spoke; we didn't have to prompt them. It showed that there was a need for this kind of kaupapa. The kōrero just kept going. We eventually had to put our foot down to stop for lunch because people wanted to keep going till all hours.
15. We held our last hui at Kohupātiki marae. Once again, there was a big turnout. Again, we heard from so many kaumātua.
16. At all the hui, people spoke about 'P', whether they were using it or whether it was affecting their whānau. And, across all the hui, the

message was always the same: no matter where they turned for help, they were just passed from one agency to another, with no support or resolution.

17. After the Kohupātiki hui, we knew we had to do something long-term to help these nannies. Since then, Nannies Against P have been working hard to help nannies who reach out to us for support. Whenever one of us gets a phone call from a nanny needing help, we ring around in the group and make sure that everyone is doing everything to help the nanny including putting them in touch with doctors, police, or WINZ. We want to ease the nanny's fears and burdens and help them in the best way possible.
18. It also became clear that we needed to establish a safe house for the nannies. We wanted to create a place they could go if they ever needed to leave their homes. But securing funding for this project has been very difficult. We have approached government departments, Health Hawkes Bay, and several other funders and even though we have pushed very hard, we have not been successful in setting up this safe house. I will talk about this more below.
19. The Nannies Against P rōpū have made a real effort to educate ourselves and others about meth and other drugs that are affecting our whānau. Before this, I had no idea what this drug was doing, or the effects it had on the user. All I knew was that we were being harmed by it. But since learning about this drug, I now understand how powerful and destructive it is and the effects it has on the addict's brain. What I understand is that parents on 'P' are incapable of caring for their children. This drug kills the parent's instinct, and children are deprived of parental nurturing. This goes against my upbringing, my beliefs, my tīpuna kawa, and tikanga for whānau.
20. I know that if I have gained something from learning about these drugs, then other nannies will also have found some benefit in finally understanding what is happening to their tamariki and whānau members. When I got involved with the Nannies Against P kaupapa in 2017, my

children and moko began opening up to me about P including sharing who in the family was using it. I growled them for keeping this information from me. I believe if I had known about this drug and its effects earlier, I may have been able to save or help my second and third generations from this drug.

21. The Nannies Against P have also distributed pamphlets to help get our message out to the community. On a visit to Taupō earlier in 2025, I met up with whānau when the topic of P came up. I was glad to have some pamphlets with me and I handed some out. They wanted more to take back to their homes and even asked if the Nannies could come speak at their papakāinga. This showed me just how critical it is to share this knowledge among our nannies and kaumātua—it is clear that they just don't know what this drug is doing to our people.

#### **Support needed—a safe house**

22. I know that our tamariki and moko who are using the drug need help, but us nannies have to focus on ourselves first. With all the work Nannies Against P are doing, we know that the most important thing we need for the nannies is a safe house. Even if it's a place where nannies can just get away for a cup of tea and a talk. This is an urgent need for us and we haven't been able to get funding to set this up.
23. It's important that this place should be run by us, as the nannies, because what we are willing to do to protect our mokopuna is unlimited. We don't have a political agenda like many organisations do—our culture and our reo is forever. As I've said before, our mothers and aunties have already done health initiatives on our marae, we've taken on kaitiaki roles in the community, we have been looking after our people from the very beginning. We know our people and we know how to support them best.
24. After joining Nannies Against P, many of my whānau have kept away from me. I think it's because now they know what I think about their drug use. I get lonely because our whānau and community has been split by this drug. I feel fortunate though because I have the Nannies group. The nannies have always been together. This is why it is so important

that we are able to continue to be there for each other through support for our kaupapa.

25. Our Nannies Against P kaupapa is not just helping nannies now, but honouring the nannies who have had to suffer and have since passed, like Anne. I know that if a safe house had been there for her, she might not have had to go through all the horrible things that she and her moko had to face at home. The Nannies Against P sincerely hope that no nanny has to feel helpless the way Anne felt and put up a brave face for others. We want to empower our nannies so that this drug, and all harmful drugs, stop destroying our communities.

*L.M. Edwards*

Lovey Matarita Edwards

*16/10/25.*

Date