

**IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL  
KEI MUA I TE TARAIPUUNARA**

**Wai 2700  
Wai 2655**

**UNDER**

**The Treaty of Waitangi  
Act 1975**

**CONCERNING**

**The Mana Wāhine  
Kaupapa Inquiry**

**AND**

**Nga Kairauhii Nannies  
Against P Claim (Wai  
2655)**

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF RUKU AREATA TE HUIA**

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

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<b>RECEIVED</b>
Waitangi Tribunal
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Ministry of Justice WELLINGTON

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## **Introduction**

1. My name is Ruku Areta Te Huia. I am a nanny, and a trustee and the chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Nga Kairauhii Trust. I am also one of the nannies who belongs to Nannies Against P.
2. I am giving this evidence to the Waitangi Tribunal on behalf of the Nga Kairauhii Nannies Against P claim. We are a group of nannies from six marae which comes under the Nga Kairauhii Trust. We have come together as the Nannies Against P rōpū to protect the mana of the nannies who are suffering because of methamphetamine users in their lives. We want to make sure that the mana, wairua and hauora of our nannies are looked after.
3. I will talk in my evidence about how the Nannies Against P was created, what we do for our nannies, and what we need from the Tribunal to make sure no nanny has to suffer again.

## **Nannies Against P**

4. Nga Kairauhii Trust was set up to carry out health initiatives on behalf of six marae in our rohe. It was an initiative from kaumatua within the community. We were just carrying on with one of our monthly meetings when a trustee and nanny, Anne, opened up to us. She shared her ordeal about her son who was living with her at the time; he had a methamphetamine or 'P' addiction. Anne has since passed away, but before her passing, she recorded her kōrero for our lawyer. A copy of her kōrero is **attached** as **RATH-01**. I would like to acknowledge Anne, as her sharing of her story is how we began our journey to help the nannies in our community.
5. After Anne told us what she had been dealing with, other members on the Trust board also spoke out about their experiences with their children on P. This drug was serious, affecting them and their moko in horrible ways. The events they were recounting were emotional. We all cried around the table. It was sad for us to hear about nannies suffering in this way. We realised then that if these nannies are suffering, there

must be others out there who are also going through the same ordeal. The trustees felt we had to help in some way. This is how the Nannies Against P kaupapa started.

6. We held three hui on marae at Omahu, Kaupātiki and Matahiwi to talk about this problem. We also went over to Wairoa marae. Most of the stories were very sad. We heard about the abuse our nannies and koros had experienced, and, most importantly, the abuse the moko were going through. This was such an eye-opener for me as I had no idea what families in our communities were going through. Us nannies have dealt with a lot over the years—looking after our moko and the whānau, but this drug has made things so terrible that it is bigger than what we can handle on our own.
7. I have also experienced my own children being on marijuana and synthetic drugs. I remember once when my moko rang me because their parents were arguing and fighting. I picked up my moko straight away and rang the police. The police contacted CYFS and my moko stayed with me. The parents had to go through counselling, and, once I was satisfied, I allowed the moko to go back to their parents. But what I was hearing from the other nannies about the effects of P was so much worse.
8. Since those hui in 2017, we have been working hard to help the nannies in whatever way we can. For many years, we have been holding monthly Nannies Against P meetings to offer a space for nannies to come and share their stories. We meet at Mihiroa Whare at the Hawkes Bay Memorial Hospital. It is a safe place for our nannies and we are indebted to Mihiroa Whare to allow us to use that room.
9. Every meeting, about three or four new nannies will come and listen to the kōrero being shared. It takes time to coax the nannies to come to our hui and sit with us, but they do come. We then wait for them to speak. The kōrero has to go around the table a few times before they feel comfortable sharing their experiences.

10. If we can afford it, we will give out \$20 petrol vouchers so that the nannies aren't out of pocket for attending the meeting. We know this isn't enough to cover their expenses, but it's something to support them to come to our hui. We also make sure to keep checking up on the nannies after they leave the meeting, ensure they are still safe and try to get them back to our next meeting.
11. We try to arrange for different speakers to attend our meetings, such as from the women's refuge, or educators who can speak about the drug. Amber Logan, Kahungunu Health Psychologist and Dr Joe Stone, Clinical Psychologist, are always willing to come and share their knowledge about methamphetamine. We are very fortunate to have their professional help because they help us understand what this drug is doing to the addicted whānau members. It helps the nannies understand how the drug affects a person, their triggers and why they are so angry and abusive, why the user cannot communicate clearly with others, and how the user misunderstands conversations with those that are not users.
12. Nannies Against P also helps connect the nannies with the right people and organisations when that support is needed. Some of our members have had experience working in government agencies like Ministry of Social Development, Child, Youth and Family Services (now Oranga Tamariki) and the Police. These retired nannies use their experience to help others navigate these government agencies.
13. As the chairperson, I have been contacted by other organisations around the country. This problem isn't unique to our rohe, but it seems like we are the only ones prepared to stand up and take responsibility.

#### **Protecting the mana of the nannies**

14. The safety of our nannies is our priority and it is important that we are the ones helping keep the nannies safe.
15. Nannies are not only the holders of knowledge, but the protector of our whakapapa, our mokopuna and our tikanga. We step in and take the

moko and the mokomoko when they need us. That's how it is in Māoridom. That is the sort of thing nannies have to do.

16. We were all brought up in a community. Back then, you didn't have one nan, you had *all* the nans looking after and caring for the whānau. This goes back to our marae. On the marae, we were taught that taking care of each other is the most important thing. What was left on our marae was all brought from the nannies, that is where we learnt. That was a big legacy.
17. That is how it still is with us nannies. We are trying to keep doing things the same way.
18. The reason that I stress this is because we have been trudging along for the past nine years trying to get support for our rōpū to be able to help nannies on our own terms, to keep them safe. In that time, we have asked lots of community groups for resources, such as Taiwhenua, but they all just want us to join them on their terms and their rules. We've also asked for resources and funding from government departments but we don't fit into any criteria and are only eligible for minimal funds at a time. We've received funding from COGS (Community Organisation Grant Scheme)<sup>1</sup>, but they've given limited funding for our administrator, Memory Kaukau, to keep the role going. Memory then applies for additional funding to help the nannies in whichever way we can.
19. I remember at our first hui at Omaha marae, we had many different government departments (and non-government organisations) attend but none of them came forward to help us for what *we* needed. We don't want other services and organisations telling us how we should help our nannies. We are nannies, and we know what we are talking about.
20. The nannies know that if we let other services or government departments take over our kaupapa, we will just be another number in their system because that is how we have been treated in the past. This is not respecting our mana, our rangatiratanga. We also know that the

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<sup>1</sup> COGS is a Crown funding organisation allocating funds to not for profit organisations within New Zealand.

nannies who need help would not feel comfortable or safe participating if we aren't looking after them because they only trust us with these issues.

21. The Nannies Against P group cares for the nannies in the way nannies know best. The nannies trust that this rōpū is a safe place and they feel comfortable to talk to us. From what we can see, they don't get this from other agencies because they keep coming to us to share their problems with.

#### **Safe house for the nannies**

22. Nannies can look after nannies. Nannies know what we want and what we need. But we can only help so far as our resources allow us. While we have been providing our nannies with as much help as possible for the past nine years, we don't have the funding to do what is really important to this kaupapa—provide a safe house for the nannies. We used to have a Nga Kairauhii office in town but due to lack of funding we lost that space. But even then, we couldn't keep nannies there. The safety of our moko will always come first but who protects the nannies?
23. We need a safe house, a place where nannies can come, talk, stay and access services they need. For example, if a nanny needs to leave her house urgently and move to a safe place for her and her moko because of meth users in the house, we want to provide that place for them. The nannies can't afford to move out on their own. Most of them are on a budget and some need petrol vouchers just to get to a Nannies Against P hui.
24. Women's refuge is not an option for the nannies. They will be safe there, but they are not among people of their own age or with people who have had experiences these nannies have. The nannies want to be somewhere they can relate to each other and be comfortable as that is part of the healing process. Even our marae are not options because there are gangs affiliated with marae and that isn't safe for our nannies.

25. It is unfortunate that because we don't have a safe house for the nannies to go to, a lot of them don't come to our hui to share their problems. They know they won't have anywhere to go to after the hui and would have to return to their abusive whānau member. This is made worse especially if that whānau member knows that they have attended a Nannies Against P meeting.
26. We need resources to create a safe space for nannies and freedom to deliver our services how we need, as we know our people best. We believe our rōpū has the answers, not the government. We have the relationships within our community to make this work because in Māori everyone is your family. We have delivered health services from marae in the past which included doctors, nurses, and educators.
27. We want the Tribunal to help us bypass the red tape that stops us from helping and recommend that our unique group have access to the resources and funding we need to create this safe place for our nannies. Nannies Against P is the perfect group to look after other nannies and their mokopuna. We aren't the experts who can cure addicts, but we can support those harmed by them.



Ruku Area Te Huia



Date