TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Wai 3553

E PĀ ANA KI te Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
CONCERNING

Ā, te Education and Training Amendment Act and Te Mātaiaho Urgent Inquiry

AND

HE PĀNUI WHAKAHAU O TE MANA WHAKAHAERE

MEMORANDUM-DIRECTIONS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER CONFIRMING THE ISSUES FOR URGENT INQUIRY AND ADDRESSING REQUESTS FOR INTERESTED PARTY STATUS

20 Māehe 2026

Hei tīmatanga kōrero / Introduction

1. This memorandum-directions:

    (a) responds to Tukau Law's memorandum concerning proposed issues for inquiry;

    (b) confirms the final issues for urgent inquiry; and

    (c) records my response to further requests for interested party status.

Ngā take ruku tātari / Issues for inquiry

Procedural history

2. In memorandum-directions of 12 March 2026, I confirmed this inquiry will focus on the recent amendments to section 127(1)(d) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) and the reset of the New Zealand Curriculum – Te Mātaiaho.

3. I proposed several issues for inquiry and directed parties with any objections to file submissions outlining any proposed changes for the panel's consideration by 17 March 2026 (Wai 3553, #2.5.2 at [5] - [7]).

Tukau Law memorandum

4. On 17 March 2026, Dr Downs and Ms Hita filed a memorandum on behalf of the Ngāti Hine Lands, Forests and Resources (Wai 682) and Te Kapotai and Ngāti Pare Hapū/Waikare Inlet (Wai 1464/Wai 1546) claims, filing submissions on the issues for inquiry (Wai 3553, #3.1.30 & #3.1.30(a).
5. Counsel submit they generally support the issues for inquiry as framed by the Tribunal, however, they propose a number of amendments to ensure 'the issues clearly capture the relevant Treaty interests engaged' (Wai 3553, #3.1.30 at [4]).

Final issues for inquiry

6. The panel has considered claimant counsel's proposed amendments and maintain the view that it will inquire into amendments of the Act and the reset of the curriculum as separate issues. However, Counsel's suggestions were helpful to clearly articulate the key issues for determination in the inquiry.

7. I accordingly **attach** the final issues for inquiry as **Appendix A**.

Te hunga e whai take ana / Interested parties

8. In memorandum-directions dated 12 March 2026, I confirmed the full list of interest parties in this urgent inquiry (Wai 3553, #2.5.2 & #2.5.2(b)).

9. The Tribunal, on 13 and 16 March 2026 respectively, received the following requests for interested party status:

    (a) Kelly Dixon, Toni Talamaivao, and Grace Taylor on behalf of Wai 2959, for the Māori Women's Welfare League Inc (Wai 3553, #3.1.28); and

    (b) Tara Hauraki and Angela Grant on behalf of Wai 1718, for Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa (Wai 3553, #3.1.29 & #3.1.29(a)).

10. On 18 March 2026, via an email from the Waitangi Tribunal Registrar, I granted interested party status to the above applicants.

11. Given the advanced progression of the urgency and the number of filing deadlines that are upcoming, I will not allow further requests for interested party participation to impact the timetable for this urgency and result in prejudice to parties.

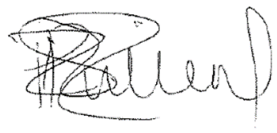
12. Therefore, any requests for interested party status received **after 5pm, 24 March 2026**, will, if granted, receive watching brief status only.

13. An updated list of interested parties is **attached** as **Appendix B**.

Me tuku atu te Kairēhita i tētehi kape o tēnei whakahau ki ērā ki te rārangi whakamōhio mō Wai 3553, the Education and Training Amendment Act and Te Mātaiaho Urgent Inquiry.

The Registrar is to send a copy of this direction to all those on the distribution list for Wai 3553, the Education and Training Amendment Act and Te Mātaiaho Urgent Inquiry.

WHAKAPŪMAUTIA ki Kirikiriroa i te 20 o te Māehe 2026



Kaiwhakawā R Mullins
Te Mana Whakahaere
TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI