I TE ROOPUU WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI **WAI 3060**

Wai 2063

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

ME

I TE TAKE O te pakirehua Wai 3060 mō ngā kerēme e pā ana ki te Rau o te Tika

ME

I TE TAKE O tētahi kerēme nā Jasmine Cotter-Williams, mōna me tōna whānau (Wai 2063)

KŌRERO TAUNAKI A TE JASMINE WHAKAARAHIA COTTER-WILLIAMS

I tēnei rā, I te 27 ō May 2026

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Waitangi Tribunal
27 May 26
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WELLINGTON

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Jasmine Whakaarahia Cotter-Williams. I was born in 1951, and I am 75 years old. I currently live in Mangere, Auckland.

2. I am the named claimant for Wai 2063. I am giving this evidence in support of our whānau claim to the Waitangi Tribunal.

3. I have previously been a volunteer at the Citizens Advice Bureau (the "**CAB**") for 13 years and also held the position of Chairperson of the Committee of Management of the CAB.

4. I have had experiences with the New Zealand Justice system, specifically with the Police and Corrections.

POLICE

Incident where the neighbours called the police

5. In 2022, a group of people came to my home looking to beat up my granddaughter, who I had raised from birth and was living at my home at the time. After the incident, I found out these people were my granddaughter's ex-partner's parents and whānau.

6. The group were unable to get onto my property but tried to grab my granddaughter through the fence. I called out to my next-door neighbour to ring the police as I didn't want to leave the gate area and go inside and get my phone. My next-door neighbour was on the front patio of her property and called the police.

7. When the police arrived at my home, I told the police that I didn't know the people that were trying to break into my property. I explained that I had asked the group to leave on three occasions, but the group would not leave and so I asked for the police to be around. I wanted the police to make the group of people leave. After the police arrived, the group were parked across the road from my property.

8. The police then tried to get in through the gate and enter my property, but I stopped them from coming through my gate and instead made them stand

on my driveway. I did not want the police to enter my property as I feared for my animal's safety.

9. Matters escalated due to the behaviour of a male Indian officer and a female European officer, as they accused me of calling the police and kept trying to enter my property. They said that the laws had changed, that Luxon had given them permission to go onto people's property.

10. I told the officers multiple times my neighbour had called the police and by this stage told the officers to leave my property as they were standing on my driveway, behind my gate instead of on the footpath. I also informed them that I had worked at the CAB for 13 years and knew what my rights were. My grandson, aged 31, who lives with me, also told them to get off the property and get out on the footpath. The people home at the time of the incident was myself, and my grandchildren.

11. The police kept asking me to come out from behind my fence. The female European officer seemed to expect that what she said was to be taken as the law, but that is not the case on my property and when we wouldn't do what she wanted, she tried to push her way through the fence.

12. Also, the male Indian officer seemed to want to fight my grandson, he kept baiting my grandson saying "you rang the police" even when I explained the next-door neighbour rang the police. I felt like the officer was hiding behind his uniform, being cheeky to my grandson because he was trying to draw him out from the property, because he knew he had backup. The male Indian officer even challenged my grandson to step outside the gate.

13. The police only left my property after another officer arrived on the scene and told the other officers to leave.

14. This behaviour from the police doesn't worry me too much, as I know my rights, but it is how this behaviour affects other people that are too scared to do anything about it, that's what worries me**.**

Incident relating to one of my grandsons

15. In March/April 2024, the police came to my home with a search warrant, in relation to one of my other grandsons to search my home for guns.

16. I heard the dogs going off and came outside, onto the back doorstep to find police in full riot gear with guns on my property. Seeing them standing there, in their full riot gear, I knew I was going to have nightmares. When I spoke to them and asked the police why they were there, I was told they had come with a warrant to search my home for guns in relation to my grandson. I confirmed that he was my grandson, but that they cannot come onto my property as their warrant was invalid as he had never lived at my property, that this is only his postal address.

17. The Seargent swore at the situation and then looked at the other officers and made a gesture that they needed to go, and they left. The Seargent then gave me his card and told me to call him sometime and left my property.

Incident relating to my other grandson

18. During the January New Year period in 2025, I was woken up by my grandson who lives with me at home as he said the police needed to speak with me. The police stated they were looking for one of my other grandsons (who does not live with me) and thought I may have been harbouring him. They questioned me about the last time I had seen him, which I answered was on Christmas Eve 2024 to wish me a Merry Christmas, but I clearly said that he does not live with me.

19. The police then asked to come inside my home and search the house. I refused their request as I did not want the police to come inside my home and upset my animals, especially my dog that's 14 years old. At this point the officers looked at each other and then chose to leave my property. The police did not state why they chose to leave but I believe they did not have a warrant so they could not come inside my home without my permission, otherwise I would have had to abide by what they said.

20. I later found out that the police were looking for my grandson because his girlfriend's mother had called the police on him. As his girlfriend had parked her car on a street near my home, they thought I may have been harbouring him and had come to search for him at my property.

Incident at the nightclubs

21. I go to the nightclubs and bars with my niece who performs karaoke there. I have been going with her for the last few years since her husband passed, and we have gone to many different venues.

22. On a number of occasions, I have been asked by police officers to leave the venue I am in and to go and speak with them outside. I have always had problems with officers and their little black books. They ask me questions such as “What’s your name?”, “What’s your address?” and such like. I don’t give them the information they ask for and instead ask if I am breaking the law by sitting and watching my niece perform and drinking my ice water, they always say no, and I just go back inside.

23. For me, I used to be quite afraid of the police, but not anymore. I have learnt what my rights are over the years and am more experienced with them, after all my dealings.

Conclusion

24. These experiences have left me feeling like the police have too much power today – that they think they’ve got all the rights in the world when they go on a person’s property. Further, with the current government it feels like the Police are treated like they are above the law.

CORRECTIONS

Rehabilitation

25. I have had grandsons who have been in and out of prison and if the purpose is to be rehabilitated, they have been to a point. The Justice system is not working for them; it is not enough. There is no responsibility taken towards fixing the damage that has been caused to the people they have hurt.

26. Instead, my grandsons need to learn from what they’ve done and come back out to the community. Instead they just keep cycling through the system and end up back in prison; it is just High Court, then prison, High Court then prison. When they are in prison, they are locked up nearly 24/7 in their cells, and they hardly go out for exercise. With Corrections, I feel like the system doesn’t really rehabilitate those who go to prison.

27. Instead, we need to do things differently, one example would be for each prisoner to be given a dog to take care of under the supervision of a Corrections officer. This would reduce the stray dog population and also help the prisoners learn responsibility and give them something constructive to do with their time while on the inside.

28. Another idea would be if the accused wronged somebody, as a part of their sentence, they would have to work for that person/whanau for a certain amount of time or pay money to the person/whanau that they wronged. At the end of the day, serving time, what good is that? The family that was wronged does not get anything through them serving time. I think it should be a lot deeper.

29. So, because they did harm to someone, they have to pay/make it better for that person specifically. I tell my grandsons, when they get out of prison they need to come and do mahi at our marae, get their acts together and work for the marae. If my grandsons have wronged someone, they have to make it up to that person/whanau specifically and work for them/pay them. If they do this, they won't find it so hard coming back to the marae. You have to make things right in the community and then become a part of the community.

Conclusion

30. At the end of the day, when you wrong someone, you should make it right with that individual, that should be a focus with rehabilitation in Corrections. If the accused can do that for the wrongs they have done to people, then it can help set them up to understand coming back to the marae, coming back to the community, reintegrating themselves. It's all part of the process of reintegration.

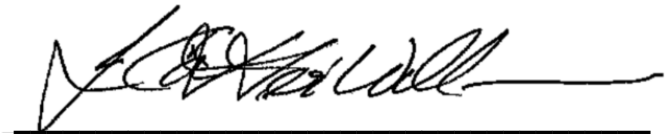
FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

31. With ram raiders, those aged 14-17 should be put into courses in the Navy and Army for 5 years. Think it would help them straighten their lives out, turn them into better people/adults.

32. With the younger ram raiders, I think they have to go back to the marae with their nannies and aunties. I think we need to put the younger ones back on

the marae. I know that some of these children won't know their marae or connections, and sadly that is part of the problem.

DATED at **TĀMAKI MAKAURAU** this **27th** day of **May 2026**



Jasmine Whakaarahia Cotter-Williams