OFFICIAL

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

Wai 3060
Wai 3011

IN THE MATTER OF	the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
AND	
IN THE MATTER OF	Te Rau o te Tika: the Justice System Inquiry
BY	Paula Ormsby, on behalf of the Wāhine Toa Chapter of the Mongrel Mob Kingdom and Priority whānau, including Māori women and their children associated with other gangs.

JOINT BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF PAULINE TAIATINI, SERENA REED, AND MIKI HAEREROA

DATED THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

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WELLINGTON

We, **Pauline Taiatini**, Mama, **Serena Reed**, Mama, and **Miki Haereroa**, Kaiako, all of Opōtiki, jointly state:

1. We provide this Joint Brief of Evidence (**JBoE**) for the custodial remand priority hearing in Wai 3060 - Te Rau o te Tika: the Justice System Kaupapa Inquiry. Our evidence concerns Pauline's own experience of being held on remand, the conditions she observed while in custody, the consequences of being released to an address away from her home and whānau, and the difficulties she has experienced with non-association conditions.

2. It also concerns our shared experience supporting Pauline's son while he has been on remand, Serena's experience supporting her daughter and son-in-law through criminal proceedings and bail, and the practical difficulties our whānau have faced when dealing with lawyers, Police, the courts and support services.

3. Where one of us speaks from personal experience that is specific to her, we identify that in this JBoE. Where we speak collectively, it reflects what we have experienced together as whānau while supporting people through remand and bail processes.

B: WHO WE ARE AND THE EXPERIENCE WE BRING

4. I, Pauline Taiatini, describe myself as a person who is qualified by experience. I have lived experience of methamphetamine addiction, imprisonment, custodial remand, bail conditions, and close whānau bereavement. Currently, I have been free from addiction for approximately eight years and seven months. I now use what I have been through to share strength and hope with other whānau going through similar circumstances.

5. I have also worked with Ara Poutama Aotearoa as a reintegration coordinator. In that role, I worked inside prisons with people whom the system sometimes described as hard to reach, including gang-affiliated men. I saw first-hand that many people in prison did not understand what needed to happen before they could be released or how to navigate the different agencies involved.

6. My approach in that work was relational. I spoke to the men as people and as whānau rather than as numbers or files. I asked what they needed, what amends they needed to make, what support they would need on release and how their

partners, mothers and wider whānau could be involved. I found that people responded to being treated with respect and without judgment.

7. I, Serena Reed, am Pauline's sister. We whakapapa to Te Whakatōhea and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui. I give this evidence both as Pauline's sister, and as a mother and mother-in-law who has supported close whānau through incarceration, bail and criminal proceedings. My involvement initially arose when I supported an application for my nephew to be released into my care, with me acting as his proposed sponsor. I became actively involved in trying to understand the process, asking his lawyer questions and helping to gather everything we were told was required, including for an application for compassionate leave. Despite doing everything that was asked of us, the application was unsuccessful. We attended Court and were ultimately told that the Judge was not satisfied with the application.

8. Since then, I have continued to support several members of my whānau through different parts of the criminal justice system. My daughter has been incarcerated and has brought home her own lived experiences of the system. I have also supported Pauline in trying to assist her son while he remains on remand, and I have supported my own son-in-law while he has been on bail away from his home area. Through these experiences, I have repeatedly found myself having to work out who to speak to, who is responsible for making a decision, what information is required from us, and what our whānau need to do next. That process has often been difficult to navigate, particularly when information is unclear or when responsibility appears to sit with different people or agencies.

9. We are not giving this evidence as criminal lawyers. We give it as wāhine Māori, mothers, aunties, sisters, and whānau members who have had to navigate the system in practice. I, Pauline, also give evidence from my experience working within the reintegration system.

C: PAULINE TAIATINI: EXPERIENCE OF CUSTODIAL REMAND

10. I, Pauline, was remanded in custody for approximately three to four weeks in October 2024 and was subsequently released in November 2024. This was not my first experience of imprisonment. I was previously in custody from around 2006 until 2008 and was not granted parole until my fourth parole hearing. When I was

released in 2008, my conditions included non-association conditions, and I was not permitted to have my children with me or return home to Ōpōtiki. At that time, my children were being cared for by members of my whānau and remained in their care following my release.

11. My own experiences of imprisonment, rehabilitation and reintegration later informed the mahi I undertook supporting other people affected by the Corrections system. I became involved in rehabilitation work in 2018, worked as a kaimahi in rehabilitation in 2019, and by 2022 was working as a reintegration coordinator. I also worked with Mana Enhancing Charitable Trust (**Trust**). Those involved with the Trust were aware of my history, and the appropriate vetting processes were completed. Through that mahi, I worked alongside Corrections and travelled to prisons including Whanganui, Hawke's Bay, Rimutaka and Waikeria, where I went into prisons and worked directly with tāngata mauhere.

12. Through that work, I also saw the importance of programmes that were developed and led by people in prison themselves. One programme I was familiar with in the women's prison was Kōwhiritanga. I also observed programmes where inmates developed and ran their own wānanga. In my experience, this was important because the people participating in those programmes were able to shape the kaupapa around what they themselves needed and understood from their own lived experience.

13. I found the remand environment shocking and appalling. I was particularly concerned about the younger wāhine around me and the lack of constructive activity and support available to them.

14. While in prison, I observed women with significant mental-health needs being managed in the same wider remand environment as other prisoners. In my view, people experiencing acute mental-health distress required appropriate specialist care and separation where necessary, rather than being left in circumstances that were unsafe or unhygienic for them and for other prisoners.

15. While I was incarcerated in Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility, Wiri, the sprinklers were activated and parts of the unit flooded. I became a wing cleaner

and was expected to help clean the environment. I recall occasions where there were faeces on the walls. I raised my concerns about this directly with the guards because I did not consider that prisoners should be expected to clean material of that nature without appropriate professional cleaning, particularly given the hygiene risks involved. After I raised those concerns, Corrections arranged for the cleaning to be outsourced to an external agency, which then attended to clean the affected areas.

16. I tried to create some of the support that I myself would have wanted when I first entered prison. I began karakia and encouraged younger wāhine to remain themselves rather than feeling they had to adopt the behaviour or persona of others in the unit. I spoke to them how a mother would speak to her own children and encouraged them to treat the unit as their own whare.

17. That experience stayed with me. When I came out, I wanted to create a platform for wāhine who could end up in remand so that they are better prepared for what they may encounter, know that they do not have to change who they are simply to fit in, and have some practical guidance before entering custody.

18. For me, the problem was not simply confinement. It was the combination of poor physical conditions, the lack of constructive activity, the presence of younger wāhine without adequate support, and the way people with mental-health needs were being treated.

D: PAULINE TAIATINI: THE CONSEQUENCES OF RELEASE AWAY FROM HOME

19. When I was released from remand, I was not permitted to return to my own home in Ōpōtiki. I own that home and remained responsible for the mortgage, but I was bailed to Rotorua.

20. Before I was remanded, I had been working. My time in custody resulted in the loss of my job. On release, I then had to deal with Work and Income again after many years of not needing that support, while still carrying the financial responsibility for my mortgage and living away from home. I also suffered further financial loss through the seizure of vehicles. In particular, my late husband's V8 was taken by Police, despite the vehicle having been fully paid off. That vehicle was not simply

an asset. It had significant sentimental value to me because it had belonged to my late husband, and losing it caused both financial and emotional loss. The loss of transport also made it harder for me to get around and rebuild stability following my release. From my perspective, the cumulative effect of losing my employment, income, transport, and a vehicle of personal significance placed me in a much worse financial position and made reintegration considerably more difficult.

21. The financial problem was immediate. I was trying to meet the cost of my own home while also needing somewhere to live in Rotorua. The fact that I had a house did not mean I was allowed to live in it.

22. I was also subject to non-association conditions affecting contact with my children. One of my daughters lived at the family home. That meant the conditions were directly connected to whether I could return home at all. I applied more than once to have my bail varied so that I could return to my own whare. I recall that it took approximately three applications and around three months before I was finally permitted to go home.

23. The conditions also affected my role as a grandmother. During the Christmas period in 2024, I wanted my mokopuna to be able to stay with me for that time, but instead of simply being their nan at my own home, I had to ask for conditions to be varied so that ordinary whānau contact could occur.

24. I consider that I was able to keep navigating the process because I had developed tools through recovery, work and lived experience. Even so, I found it exhausting and frustrating. I could see how easily someone without those tools, support, or confidence could simply give up.

25. All of this occurred against a background of grief. My husband was sadly murdered in 2023. At the time that I went into remand, my tamariki and I were still grieving the loss of my husband. Coupled with this, we then had to deal with a lot of the consequences that came afterwards including the loss of employment, displacement from my home, and restrictions on who I was allowed to have contact with in my whānau.

E: PAULINE TAIATINI: NON-ASSOCIATION CONDITIONS AND CONTACT WITH WHĀNAU

26. I later faced a further period in custody after Police alleged that I had breached a non-association condition by speaking with my son while he was incarcerated. I was remanded in custody again from April 2025 into May 2025 for approximately four weeks. The alleged breach arose from contact between a mother and her son at a time when I was deeply concerned about his wellbeing.

27. At that time, I was my son's only living parent. I understood that he was experiencing suicidal ideation, and I was frightened about what might happen to him. Although he was incarcerated, I remained his mother and felt a responsibility to support him. His imprisonment did not remove that responsibility or lessen my concern for his safety. From my perspective, remaining completely disconnected from him while he was in that state did not feel safe or humane.

28. The non-association condition placed me in an extremely difficult position. I was expected to have no contact with my son, yet I understood that he was struggling and needed support. I felt caught between complying with the condition and responding to him as his mother. For me, this was about maintaining a connection with my son when I feared for his wellbeing. I consider that the condition did not adequately account for our relationship, the loss of his other parent, or the importance of whānau support while he was in custody.

29. Police arrested me after I had spoken with him. I then spent approximately four weeks in custody while my lawyer worked to secure my release. During that period, I had to deal with my own imprisonment while continuing to worry about my son. Rather than resolving how we could communicate safely, the response resulted in both of us being in custody and made it harder for me to support him.

30. My frustration is that the question of contact could ultimately be addressed through the lawyers and the Court, but I remained incarcerated while that process took place. Those weeks were a significant period of my life. I experienced the consequences of being returned to custody while seeking a resolution to a condition that prevented me from speaking with my own son. The time spent in custody could not be given back once that issue was addressed.

31. I repeatedly sought to have the non-association condition with my son removed. I recall making approximately five applications before it was ultimately lifted and I was able to communicate with him lawfully. Having to return to the Court repeatedly prolonged the uncertainty about whether I could maintain contact with him. It also meant that a basic whānau relationship depended on continued legal intervention before we could speak without the risk of a further alleged breach.

32. For me, this experience shows how a condition that may appear straightforward on paper can have serious consequences in practice. It can prevent a mother from supporting a son who is struggling in custody, expose her to arrest and further remand, and require repeated applications simply to maintain contact. The effect extends beyond the person subject to the condition. It also affects the wellbeing of the whānau member who is relying on that relationship for support.

33. We recognise that bail conditions must be complied with. Our concern is that conditions affecting close whānau relationships need to be assessed in their actual context, including the person's wellbeing, the role of the whānau member and the purpose of the proposed contact. Where concerns exist, consideration should be given to whether contact can occur through agreed arrangements, supervision or other safeguards. In my situation, I wanted a lawful way to remain connected with my son and support him during a period when I was deeply concerned for his safety.

F: PAULINE TAIATINI: SUPPORTING MY SON WHILE HE REMAINS ON REMAND

34. My son has been held on remand since 22 October 2024. Our whānau has been actively involved in trying to identify bail addresses, whakahoki mauri options, and other safeguards that may allow him to be released safely into the community.

35. My daughter-in-law, Miki, has kept a timeline of our whānau's attempts to obtain bail. This is attached as **Annex A.** From what we have seen, one of the most difficult features has been that when we address one stated concern, another concern is then raised. That has made the process feel as though the goalposts keep moving while my son remains in custody.

36. For example, concerns were raised about access to cell phones. We identified rehabilitation options that had policies restricting or monitoring phone access and provided that information through the lawyers. Even after those safeguards were identified, bail was still declined.

37. We have put forward more than one rehabilitation option. This has included a kaupapa associated with Matilda Kahotea and, more recently, work to secure a place through the Reintegration, Rehabilitation, Reduces Reoffending Model, through Esther Peters. Our frustration is that we have continued trying to find solutions, but my son has remained on remand.

38. We also sought compassionate leave or release arrangements so my son could visit his 94 year old great-grandfather, whose full name he carries. That request was declined. For us, this was another example of the difficulty of maintaining whakapapa and important whānau relationships while a person is held on remand.

39. I have also seen the repeated bail process affect my son's relationship with his lawyer. After another application was declined, he became so frustrated that he told us he wanted to change lawyers. We then had to try to hold the relationship together because changing counsel could create further delays.

40. I have seen the pressure of serious charges and prolonged remand weigh heavily on my son. We have had discussions in which he has felt overwhelmed by the number and seriousness of charges and the consequences he could face if convicted.

41. We understand that plea decisions are ultimately for the accused person, after receiving legal advice. Our point is that prolonged remand, repeated bail refusals, uncertainty and the weight of serious charges can create real pressure on a person to plead guilty just to bring the process to an end rather than continue fighting every allegation.

G: POLICE CHARGING PRACTICES AND THE EFFECT ON REMAND

42. We are concerned about what we see as overcharging: a person facing a large number of serious allegations at the outset, with some charges later withdrawn, reduced or dropped. Within our whānau, we have seen how the initial charges can shape bail decisions and place considerable pressure on the person and those

supporting them. Our concern is that those consequences begin immediately, while the allegations are still being examined. If the case later becomes narrower, the person may already have spent a lengthy period on remand and the whānau may already have carried the consequences of the more serious case initially presented.

43. In relation to Pauline's son, our whānau understood that he initially faced 47 charges, including serious violence allegations and drug charges involving methamphetamine supply. We found the number and seriousness of those allegations overwhelming. For him, they represented the possibility of many years in prison. For us, they made it difficult to understand what he was facing and what support might enable him to obtain bail. We were trying to help him cope with the allegations while also finding accommodation, rehabilitation options and safeguards that could be put forward through his lawyers. That work took place against the weight of the initial charges.

44. As the case progressed, we were told that some charges had fallen away. We understood that two of seven methamphetamine supply charges had been dropped. We were also told that some violence charges were being challenged because of issues concerning the scope of the search warrant and might fall away. Those challenges were different from charges that had already been dropped, but both were important to how we understood the case. From our perspective, the initial number and seriousness of the allegations could give a very different impression from the case that remained after further examination. Our concern is that the person continues to experience the consequences of the initial allegations during the time it takes to resolve those issues.

45. The timing matters because bail is considered while those serious allegations are already before the Court. In our experience, allegations of violence and drug supply, together with gang status or association, have usually been relied on as reasons for treating the person as a greater risk on bail. Our whānau has responded by identifying addresses, rehabilitation programmes and restrictions on phone access, but Pauline's son has remained in custody. It has felt as though the seriousness of the initial allegations carries more weight than the practical support we can arrange.

We are concerned that, where charges later fall away, the view formed of the person at the beginning can continue to influence how their proposed placement is treated.

46. We also saw the effect on Pauline's son's willingness to continue defending the case. He became overwhelmed by the number of charges and the potential years of imprisonment attached to them. At one point, he spoke about pleading guilty to all the charges because he was frightened about what would happen if he went to trial. His whānau encouraged him not to plead guilty to allegations he said he had not committed. For us, that was a distressing conversation. We were trying to support him to make decisions about the allegations, but he was also dealing with continued custody, repeated bail refusals and fear about his future. In our view, those pressures can make pleading guilty feel like a way to bring an unbearable process to an end, even where the person disputes what is alleged.

47. When charges are later withdrawn, reduced or dropped, that does not undo the time already spent on remand or the pressure experienced by the whānau. We have already had to make calls, speak with lawyers, identify possible placements, respond to concerns and support our whānau member through uncertainty. The emotional strain of facing the most serious allegations is also carried during that period. For us, the effect of charging therefore needs to be considered across the whole process, including what the initial allegations meant for bail and plea decisions before the case was narrowed. Looking only at the charges that ultimately remain does not capture those earlier consequences.

48. We consider that significant changes to the charges should lead to a prompt reassessment of the person's bail position. That reassessment should address whether the reasons previously relied on for continued remand still apply, and whether the accommodation, rehabilitation and whānau support already proposed can now provide a workable placement. The person and whānau should receive a clear explanation of any concerns that remain and what further information or safeguards are needed to address them. Otherwise, whānau can continue trying to answer concerns arising from the original case while the person remains in custody. We ask that the effect of the initial charging on remand be examined, including

whether people could have been supported in the community earlier as the case changed.

H: SERENA REED: EXPERIENCE OF SUPPORTING WHĀNAU ON BAIL

49. I, Serena, have also supported my son-in-law, who has been on bail in Gisborne in relation to serious charges. His mother lives in Tāneatua and the incident giving rise to the charges occurred in Ōpōtiki. The effect of the bail arrangement is that he has been kept away from his mother and home area while the proceedings continue.

50. To secure accommodation, my daughter and our wider whānau had to approach his whānau for help even though the relationships between the families were not especially close. We made it work because a suitable placement was needed, but it shows how the burden of finding a workable bail address can fall directly on whānau.

51. My son-in-law has been required to remain within very restrictive boundaries at the address. He had been working before these events but, while on bail, has spent long periods effectively confined within four walls and unable to live an ordinary working life.

52. I have observed the effect on his wairua. He became low and depressed from doing very little and from being separated from his mother. I consider that being closer to his mother would support his healing and wellbeing, while still allowing appropriate conditions to manage risk.

53. Community support has helped. Support through Gisborne social services was valuable for his wairua and wellbeing. My concern is that access to that support should not depend on whānau happening to know who to call or being able to navigate the system themselves.

54. Variations for important whānau events have also required significant paperwork and effort. He has been permitted to attend tangihanga, which I acknowledge positively, but the process has not been straightforward and often requires urgent applications to be made to the Court at times when the whānau is already grieving.

55. From my perspective, bail and remand should not become an additional form of punishment. Conditions are necessary manage risk, but the process should also recognise that connection with a mother, whānau, whenua and community can be part of what keeps a person stable and accountable.

I: COMMUNICATION, LEGAL INFORMATION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS

56. A recurring problem for us has been not knowing who is responsible for what. There may be lawyers, Police, court staff, Probation, social services and different parts of Corrections involved, but to a whānau trying to help a person on remand or bail, it is not obvious who has the authority to answer a question or fix a problem.

57. The process is frustrating because there is very little practical guidance for whānau coming into the system for the first time. Legal language can make that worse. People may be told something in technical terms but still leave court without understanding what the condition means, what they are expected to do next, or who they can speak to if circumstances change.

58. We have often had to rely on somebody in the whānau knowing one part of the process, another person knowing something else, and then trying to put those pieces together. That is not a reliable way for a justice system to communicate with people whose liberty and whānau relationships are at stake.

59. I, Pauline, saw the same communication problem from inside the prison when I worked as a reintegration coordinator. Men often did not know what had to happen before they could get out. I found myself helping to translate the system into practical steps: what support was needed, who needed to be contacted, what relationship needed to be repaired and what plan had to be in place.

60. That is why we consider navigation support important. A person on remand should not remain in custody simply because the prisoner, whānau, lawyer, provider and agencies are each holding a different piece of information and nobody is responsible for bringing it together in time for a bail application.

J: WHĀNAU, CULTURAL, AND PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES

61. Our experiences show that remand affects the whole whānau. The person inside is dealing with confinement and uncertainty, while the people outside are making phone calls, attending court, finding addresses, contacting programme providers, speaking with lawyers, trying to understand conditions and dealing with the emotional consequences at home.

62. I, Pauline, lost my employment after being remanded and had to seek income support while continuing to meet my mortgage. I was separated from my home, children and mokopuna by bail and non-association conditions. Those consequences continued after I physically left the prison.

63. I, Serena, have seen similar pressure from the whānau side. Supporting my son-in-law has required us to locate accommodation, liaise with services and lawyers, help with variations and try to keep him connected while he is unable to live close to his mother or resume normal work and community life.

64. We also see a cultural consequence when conditions separate people from whānau and tūrangawaewae. In te ao Māori, a mother, child, sibling or grandparent is not simply a social contact. Those relationships carry responsibilities of manaakitanga, awhi, whakapapa and reciprocal care.

65. That does not mean every person should automatically be bailed to whānau or every association should be permitted. It means those relationships should be considered as part of the actual risk and support picture rather than being treated only as a problem to be restricted.

66. We consider the same principle applies to whakahoki mauri. Pauline's experience working with people in prison taught her that people respond when they are treated as human beings and when support is connected to their actual relationships, responsibilities and goals. Reintegration is more likely to work when it begins before release and involves whānau where that can be done safely.

K: RECOMMENDATIONS

67. Based on our experiences, we consider that practical changes can be made to reduce unnecessary time on remand and make bail and reintegration processes easier for Māori and their whānau to navigate.

68. First, every person remanded in custody should have early access to practical bail and reintegration navigation. That support should identify accommodation, whānau supports, treatment or whakahoki mauri options, transport, employment issues and any other barriers before the next bail application is due to be heard.

69. Second, Police charging practices should be reviewed to identify whether laying numerous high-level charges at the outset is contributing to entry into or continuation of custodial remand. Where serious charges are later withdrawn, reduced or dropped, bail should be reconsidered promptly so that a person is not kept in custody on the basis of allegations that are no longer being pursued.

70. Third, there should be a clear person or service responsible for coordinating information between the prisoner, counsel, whānau, Police, Probation, Corrections and community providers. Whānau should not be left to work out which agency holds which piece of information while the person remains in custody.

71. Fourth, bail decisions and proposed conditions should take a whānau-centred and te ao Māori approach. Decision-makers should consider not only risk, but also whether connection with parents, children, kaumātua, whakapapa, whenua and community can provide protective support and accountability.

72. Fifth, non-association conditions involving close whānau should be carefully tailored and regularly reviewed. Where safe contact can be managed, there should be a practical pathway to allow it, particularly where there are concerns about mental health, suicide risk, parenting, caregiving or significant whānau responsibilities.

73. Sixth, people released away from their home area should receive practical support with accommodation, income, transport, medical care and community connection. A person should not be placed in a position where the conditions of release make it impossible to meet an existing mortgage or rent, maintain employment, or care for whānau without any plan to address those consequences.

74. Seventh, rehabilitation and bail accommodation proposals should be assessed promptly and transparently. If a proposal is declined, the reasons should be specific

enough that the whānau, provider and lawyer can understand whether the concern can be fixed and what evidence would be required to address it.

75. Eighth, people and whānau should have access to plain-language explanations of bail conditions, variations and points of contact. Practical navigation or advocacy support should be available at court so that people know whom to approach, what information is needed and how to seek help if they cannot comply with a condition. We consider that whānau should be able to obtain that assistance wherever their case is heard.

76. Ninth, remand units should provide meaningful daily activity, cultural support and age-appropriate support for younger prisoners. People experiencing significant mental-health distress should receive appropriate clinical care and these concerns should not be managed in ways that create unsafe or unhygienic conditions for themselves or others.

77. Tenth, whānau contact should be treated as part of rehabilitation and wellbeing. Safe opportunities for contact with children, parents, grandparents and other significant whānau should be facilitated wherever possible rather than treated as an optional extra.

78. Eleventh, the Crown should recognise and make better use of people with lived experience in reintegration and navigation roles. From my experience, I, Pauline, consider that people who have themselves been through addiction, prison and recovery can reach prisoners who do not easily trust institutions, and can translate system requirements into practical steps that make sense to them.

79. Finally, the Crown should examine whether lengthy remand, repeated bail refusals and uncertainty about case progression are creating practical pressure on accused people to plead guilty simply to bring the process to an end. People should be able to make plea decisions on the evidence and legal advice, not because prolonged remand has made the process feel impossible to continue.

L: CONCLUSION

80. Our evidence is that remand cannot be understood by looking only at the prison cell. The practical causes and consequences extend into bail addresses, non-

association conditions, lawyers, agency communication, employment, income, mental health, whānau responsibilities and cultural connection.

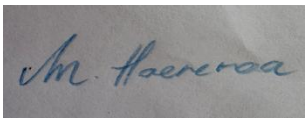
81. I, Pauline, have experienced these issues from both sides: as a person held on remand and as a reintegration worker trying to help others leave prison successfully. I, Serena, have experienced them as a whānau member trying to hold people together on the outside and work out a system that often gives no clear roadmap.

82. What has helped us most has been people who communicate plainly, treat us as whānau rather than a problem, and help identify a practical next step. What has caused the greatest difficulty has been delay, uncertainty, repeated barriers and conditions that do not appear to take the realities of whānau life into account.

83. We ask the Tribunal to consider whether earlier planning, clearer coordination, culturally grounded support and properly tailored conditions would allow more Māori to be safely supported in the community instead of remaining on custodial remand.

84. For us, this is about accountability and safety, but it is also about mana, whānau and hope. People are more likely to change when they can see a pathway forward and when the people who love them are able to be part of that pathway.

Dated: 6 October 2026



Pauline Taiatini	**Serena Reed**	**Miki Haereroa**