

REPORT OF THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL ON
A CLAIM RELATING TO MAORI 'PRIVILEGE'

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 19

IN THE MATTER of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by D McMaster relating to
'Special Privileges for Maori People'

Minister of Maori Affairs
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Wetere

In February 1985 D McMaster of Auckland filed a claim with the Waitangi Tribunal alleging, amongst other things, that a number of special privileges were accorded to Maori people by virtue of their race but these privileges were at variance with the Treaty of Waitangi. He called on the Tribunal to take such steps as are necessary to put an end to this situation.

Section 6 of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 defines who can bring a claim to the Waitangi Tribunal. It appears that only Maoris can bring a claim. Mr McMaster was told of that preliminary view and was asked whether he was a Maori, or, in the alternative, whether he disputed that interpretation of section 6.

Mr McMaster has replied that he is not a Maori and he has withdrawn the claim.

Dated at Wellington this 21st day of May 1985

[E T J Durie]
Chairman

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[Sir Graham Latimer,
Member

[Paul Temm]
Member