

Understanding the Treaty as a framework for the future for all of us

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Network Waitangi Ōtautahi (NWŌ) supports the development of a Treaty-based, multicultural future.

Over coming years, as we cope with Covid-19, global climate change and the many other environmental, social, economic and political threats we face, building connections by creating an Aotearoa in which decision-making is Tiriti-based will be key to long term strong sustainability of our country and its peoples. We see such a society, driven through the authority of rangatiratanga and built on mutually creative and respectful relationships and understandings, as resulting in a values-based, place-based society which is nourished by whanaungatanga, manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga, and enabled by a shift from individual self-interest alone to a society based on generosity.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi sets out the relationship between hapū and the Crown, providing a place for us all to belong and live here in harmony as Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti. Te Tiriti has in effect been ignored by the dominant system until very recently, and even then at best only imperfectly taken into consideration, and Māori have suffered mightily as a consequence. NWŌ supports the restoration of Tino Rangatiratanga by Tangata Whenua and we are committed to Te Tiriti as the framework for a multicultural and strongly sustainable future. Its implementation requires development of the honourable Kāwanatanga envisioned in Te Tiriti, which we believe is essential to collective and individual wellbeing for all.

NWŌ recognises the text in te reo as the Treaty.

No English language version was present at Waitangi on 6 February 1840.

Any NWŌ references to the Treaty/Te Tiriti are to that text in te reo. A modern - accurate - expression in English of its text in te reo is available on the NWŌ website, under the Resources heading.

NWŌ actively works towards this future by:

- providing formal learning opportunities
- creating resources that are open access under the Creative Commons licence
- providing mentorship to people wanting one-to-one support
- advocating for Te Tiriti to be centred as the framework for a safe, inclusive and non-racist future in this country in order to interrupt the monocultural dominance
- exposing the way decision-making based on majority-thinking often contributes to oppression and silences minorities
- encouraging relationships that help address the effects on those experiencing multiple dimensions of oppression
- supporting organisations to make sustainable changes to their policies and processes, establishing values-based, place-based approaches.

In summary our focus is not on "racism" and "anti-racism" but on encouraging people to see Te Tiriti as a creative framework for the future to use in their families, communities, organisations and institutions – a future on which we can work together with SŌC.